



# KENT ON SUNDAY

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**INSIDE  
THIS  
WEEK'S  
PAPER**

**Review**  
**LENNY HENRY RAVES  
ABOUT MUSIC AND  
LIFE ON HIS NEW TOUR**



# DOCTORS SHORT OF FLU VACCINE

## GP's warn of surging demand for H1N1 jabs after fatalities

By **MARIJKE COX**

SUPPLIES of a potentially life-saving flu vaccine are running out in Kent after GPs were swamped by a huge demand for jabs.

Doctors are now being urged to share their surplus vaccine with neighbouring surgeries, while many are only giving jabs to the most vulnerable patients.

While supplies are running low across the country, Kent is one of the worst-hit areas.

Health chiefs told KoS they were working with primary care trusts to ensure any spare medication was given to GPs who had dwindling supplies.

A spokeswoman at NHS South East Coast, which oversees the county's three primary care trusts, said: "We are urging GPs across Kent to share vaccination with neighbouring practices, where possible."

Elham Valley GP Peter Le Feuvre said the demand was due to a new type of seasonal flu that had caused deaths in younger people nationwide.

"Normally seasonal flu affects the elderly,

but this winter the particular strain includes swine flu which causes illness and death for younger people under 65," he said.

"H1N1 [swine flu] is more likely to attack younger people, so a group that would not normally come for a vaccine have recognised they might need one."

GPs order vaccine in the summer and have to guess, based on previous years' figures, how much is needed for the winter. It means some doctors may have more than others, and in these cases GPs must help those with less.

Dr Le Feuvre added: "I must stress that local GPs are only vaccinating at-risk groups."

Prime Minister David Cameron said the Government will use leftover stock from 2009's swine flu pandemic, which, although a different vaccine, could offer some defence against the disease.

Health Protection Agency figures showed a sharp rise in flu cases in just three weeks.

Through December the number of cases in the South East, which covers Kent, Surrey and Sussex, increased from 19 in every 100,000 people to 87 per 100,000.


In the NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent area the rate was 56.4; in Medway 101.1; and in

**CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO**

Picture: BRETT LEWIS

## Lone seal pups mystery

SEE INSIDE FOR FULL STORY



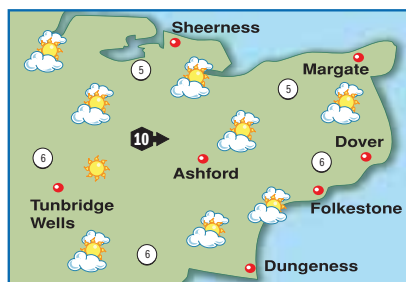
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## Kent today



**TODAY:** After a frosty start in places, it will be largely dry and fine with plenty of wintry sunshine. Moderate westerly winds. Near normal temperatures. Max temp 5-8C (41-46F). **TONIGHT:** Dry and cold with long clear periods. Frosty in places with icy patches. Min temp -2 to 1C (28-34F).

## Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	fair	3	37	London	fair	7	45
Belfast	fair	4	39	Liverpool	fair	6	43
Birmingham	fair	5	41	Manchester	fair	4	39
B'mouth	fair	7	45	Newcastle	sun	3	37
Bristol	sun	7	45	Norwich	fair	4	39
Cardiff	fair	7	45	Oxford	fair	6	43
Cork	fair	6	43	Southsea	fair	7	45
Edinburgh	fair	4	39	S'hampton	fair	7	45
Glasgow	fair	5	41	Southport	fair	6	43
Isle of Man	sun	6	43	Swansea	fair	7	45
Leeds	fair	3	37	Torquay	fair	8	46







## Sun & moon

Sunrise	7.59am	Sunset	4.05pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	9.45am	Moonset	10.05pm	4.05pm to 7.59am

## High Tides

	today		tomorrow	
	ht (m)	ht (m)	ht (m)	ht (m)
Dover	01.39	6.5 13.58 6.1	02.14	6.3 14.33 5.9
Margate	02.33	4.6 15.01 4.4	03.10	4.5 15.39 4.2
St Mary's	07.30	5.3 19.46 5.0	08.05	5.1 20.21 4.8

## Week ahead

 <b>monday</b> Some sun. max 6C min 1C	 <b>thursday</b> Showers. max 11C min 5C
 <b>tuesday</b> Rain, some heavy. max 8C min 4C	 <b>friday</b> Mostly dry. max 10C min 4C
 <b>wednesday</b> Light rain. max 11C min 6C	 <b>saturday</b> Showers. max 10C min 5C

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# Flu jabs for vulnerable groups only

## CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

West Kent 95.3. Although these figures were below the England and Wales average of 124.4, the risk of infection spreading as children returned to school and adults to work after the Christmas break meant numbers were expected to rise.

The spokeswoman for NHS South East Coast said the figure of 87 per 100,000 was well within the normal range of flu for this type of year.

But she admitted that some supplies of vaccine were running low and the trust was doing everything possible to make sure any surplus was directed to surgeries in need.

She added: "An increase in seasonal flu is normal at this time of year and in order to

protect schoolchildren, people at work and the public in general the Department of Health is re-running its Catch It, Bin It, Kill It hygiene campaign.

"When there is ongoing flu, good hygiene is really important. Parents should educate their children to use good hand and respiratory hygiene, especially when they get back to school.

"Children with underlying health conditions should go to their GPs and be vaccinated. Parents with further concerns should contact their GP or NHS Direct."

The Department of Health's Catch It, Bin It, Kill It campaign advises on how to avoid spreading the disease. The latest flu statistics showed 50 people had died nationwide

from the disease since October; 45 from swine flu and five from Influenza B.

A Department of Health spokeswoman said: "We are aware of reports of supply issues in some areas.

"We are working with the NHS at local level to ensure available supplies of surplus vaccine are moved to where there is a need for them."

A spokesman from the Royal College of General Practitioners also urged doctors to liaise with local colleagues to make vaccine available.

He added: "We are aware of increased public demand, but we believe it is important to prioritise available stocks of vaccine for at-risk groups."

# Small firms braced for heavy VAT blow

**BUSINESS** leaders have warned that the VAT rise will deal a heavy blow to small firms, with many expected to raise prices to cope with the financial pressures, *writes Marijke Cox.*

It comes just weeks after heavy snow led to a slump in Christmas sales figures, with a predicted loss of about £600 million to the South East economy. The rise in fuel prices is also expected to have an immediate impact on commerce and industry as companies battle to absorb increased costs.

Small firms are forecast to fare worst after the 2.5 per cent VAT rise to 20 per cent was introduced by the Government this week.

The Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) said that, unlike big companies, smaller firms will find it harder to absorb the increase and may have to pass the cost to customers, reduce stock levels, or cut jobs.

FSB chairman John Walker said: "Small businesses had a tough time in 2010, especially towards the end of the year when what should have been a very busy time as people made purchases before the VAT increase was hampered by heavy snow and severe weather."

An FSB survey revealed 52 per cent of businesses expected to have to increase prices, 45 per cent predicted a fall in turnover, and 36 per cent forecast a loss of customers.

But warnings from industry experts that some companies would use the VAT rise as



**TOUGH TIME:** FSB chairman John Walker

an excuse to increase prices were dismissed by the county's business leaders.

Jo James, the chief executive of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, said: "Throughout the downturn the business community as a whole has shown a determination to protect the consumer.

"If prices rise, which they inevitably must, it will be a necessary adjustment to keep businesses solvent in the face of extremely difficult trading conditions.

"A solvent business can maintain a service

for its customers, an insolvent business is of no benefit to anybody."

She admitted the VAT increase would have an impact on all businesses. "It is simply a matter of how severe the effect will be, and how companies respond," she said.

"From any trading perspective, a substantial increase in VAT must, certainly in the long term, reduce consumer spending – and in the final analysis, consumer spending drives business.

"Even if the average customer continues to buy goods, it is most likely they will settle for smaller, cheaper and less often.

"It is already evident that many bigger businesses are trying to absorb the increase initially, and not pass it on to the consumer.

"This cannot last in the longer term and is not something smaller, independent traders could possibly afford to do. As businesses, we must all try to go on doing what we have been doing for the last two years – increase efficiency, cut costs, and maximise income.

"Not easy to do under the circumstances, I admit, especially as many companies are already pretty much pared to the bone."

But Ms James was confident Kent's business community would find a way to stay afloat, while being as considerate as possible to customers.

She said: "Business people would not be in business today unless they were aware of the importance of customer service."

• **See Business Week inside for more on what Kent firms can expect in 2011.**

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## Dog walkers are finding an increasing number of lone pups

# The baby seals mystery

By **MARIJKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

A RISING number of lone seal pups still dependent on their mothers are being found along the county's coastline.

Wildlife experts conducting an ongoing study into Kent's seal colony are looking into the possible reasons behind the sharp increase, but are yet to reach a conclusion.

Consultant ecologist Brett Lewis, a PhD student at the University of Kent and lead on the investigation, said he was trying to find out more about grey seal pups.

"Usually seals look to be in areas that are inaccessible to humans, but they are being found by people walking their dogs along the Kent coastline," he said.

"It's hard to see why there are increasing numbers of pups found. It could be that they're feeding somewhere locally where they can stay in safety, such as a cave.

"But potentially when there is high tide the pups may be moved out by the water and end up in a different place, where people then stumble across them."

The 33-year-old said it could also be down to milder winters, with the exception of the recent Arctic spell.

"Once a seal has given birth they might move away from



the birthing place and go to areas where they can cool down," he said.

"As pups get older they tend to wander around, so while the mums are away the pups might go and look for them.

"This could be another reason why we're getting increasing numbers of dependent pups around the shore."

He said the lost pups will usually go back out to sea and be reunited with the colony.

Mr Lewis said people who came across the pups usually left them alone, but urged others to keep their distance but report the find, explaining: "There is a high risk of abandonment from the mum if people touch the pups."

Kent has a thriving seal colony, with around 300-400 on the tidal sandbank complex off the coast of Margate, and the Goodwin Sands off Deal.

Mr Lewis said there were approximately 1,000 around the county's shores.

The most sighted is the common seal –

also known as the harbour seal – but the grey seal – or Atlantic seal – is also a resident to the coastline.

In 1988 and 2002, a disease called the phocine distemper virus wiped out a large number of the animals.

But in 2006, six Kent seals were tagged as part of Mr Lewis' investigation, revealing intermingling with colonies in France and other parts of Britain.

Mr Lewis said it showed the colony was more integral to ecology than researchers studying seals in Norfolk, the Scottish coast and eastern areas may have thought.

He also said the rising number of seals in Kent could be the population simply recovering from the virus outbreak.

"We're becoming more aware of seals as numbers are increasing," he said. "It's important to have these seals on our shores – this is the biggest population in the south.

"If we get reasonable numbers of seals the fishing here tends to be good. It means the rivers are clean from where they enter the estuaries. It also helps when looking at allocating marine protected areas and also when there are developments being planned which could impact the environment."

**• Anyone who finds a seal pup can call Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre at 01795 532385.**

Pictures: © WWW.BRETTLEWISPHOTOGRAPHY.CO.UK

**YOUNG:** The seal pups, top, are still dependent on their mothers

has given birth they might move away from



## Postlethwaite's OBE Kingsnorth protest

PETE Postlethwaite, the Brassed Off actor who died on Monday aged 64, had campaigned against plans to build a new coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth in Medway.

He was a campaigner against global warming, and starred in the film The Age of Stupid, where he played a man living in a devastated future world of 2055.

At the film's premiere he threatened to return his OBE if the Kingsnorth plant went ahead. Last year E.ON dropped its plans for the new power station.



## Crabs froze to death

THOUSANDS of dead crabs, which are believed to have perished during the freezing weather, have washed up on Kent's shores.

For the third year running, beaches in north Thanet have been found littered with around 25,000 dead velvet swimming crabs, along with starfish and anemones.

Environmental experts have blamed the cold weather, saying the crabs died of hyperthermia. The population is expected to recover.

To see this search 'high speed' @ yourkenttv.co.uk



Kent's high-speed train service is a year old – and we find out what impact it has had on the county

## Lorry park funds blow adds to Stack of woes

THE Government has refused to pay for a huge lorry park to help manage Operation Stack, but the Tory leader of County Hall has vowed to push forward with the controversial project.

Cllr Paul Carter said he would look at others ways to raise funds, such as charging foreign lorries to travel on Kent's roads or from money generated through the Dartford Crossing.

The proposed 70-acre park, which would be near Aldington, outside Ashford, would be large enough to hold 3,000 HGVs and expected to cost about £35 million.

Kent County Council says it would ease pressure on roads when Operation Stack was in place on the M20.

The system is implemented when crossings to France are stopped – usually due to bad weather or industrial action – and one lane of the motorway is closed between junctions 11 and 12 (Hythe and Cheriton), and eight to nine (Maidstone and Ashford), to allow HGVs to queue.

But Stack means roads in the area become gridlocked and parts of the county grind to a halt as traffic moves off the M20.

Cllr Carter told the BBC: "Every time Operation Stack takes place it disrupts the private lives, the business lives, of everybody in that corner of Kent. It's not good enough."

A funding bid for the lorry park project was submitted to Government as part of the Sustainable Communities Act which allows local authorities to bid for money that will go

towards improving communities. But the Government announced this week it would not give funds, despite claims from KCC that the M20 problem affected the whole country by disrupting trade and tourist traffic.

A Department for Communities and Local Government spokesman said: "In relation to the proposal for a lorry park in Kent, it is understood the costs are likely to greatly exceed £35m due to the need for works to construct a new junction off the motorway.

"The Highways Agency has no objection to the lorry park being created. However, Government funding is not available for this project."

### Opposition

Cllr Carter said the Government had not supported many of the country's Sustainable Community Act bids because the central spending department did not fully understand what was trying to be achieved. He added: "This won't get in the way of moving forward and getting our plans delivered."

The proposed development created opposition from people living near the Aldington site, who formed the Lorry Park Alliance campaign. Simon Foster, a member of the group, said the Government's funding refusal was positive news.

"This is a realistic response from the Government, but Operation Stack is a problem for Kent that needs solving," he said.

"The manner in which it is solved has to be different from what KCC is proposing."

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## MPs' expenses 'nightmare' for intake of 2010

THE independent body set up to reform Parliament's sleaze-riddled expenses system has been accused of causing "exceptional difficulties" for Kent's newest MPs.



ROGER GALE

According to veteran backbencher Roger Gale, new guidelines introduced by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (Ipsa) could price some of the best – yet less well-off – politicians out of the Commons.

In particular, the North Thanet Tory pointed to the clampdown on second home allowances, which some MPs claim has forced them to sleep in their Westminster offices after late-night debates.

Mr Gale said: "There are young members in Kent who are having exceptional difficulties and cashflow problems, partly because they've had to pay thousands of pounds for their offices and Ipsa is very slow at paying them back.

"Ipsa is asking people what they think MPs should get, but they will obviously say we should all be hung, drawn and quartered and we're all crooks – but we're not.

"About 300 mainly young people came into the Commons after the election, and all of those in Kent had good jobs before they gave them up to earn less as an MP.

"I took a two-thirds cut in income when I came to Parliament [in 1983], but I wouldn't do that tomorrow. I'd say sorry, but I'll find a better way to serve the public because I'm not putting up with this."

Nine of Kent's 17 MPs – all of them Conservative – are newcomers to the Commons having won at the last General Election. They have inherited a new expenses system introduced in the wake of the expenses scandal, which revealed some MPs used taxpayers' money to fund items including moat cleaning and cable TV pornography.

Dover MP Charlie Elphicke agreed Ipsa had taken the system too far in the opposite direction. He said: "It's a nightmare and it just drives me mad. It takes ages to sort out your claims and I would rather use that time to help constituents. People need to be more realistic about how much the job costs.

"I was very lucky to have made enough money before I was elected to get by, but not everyone is in the same position."

A CERAMICIST has won a Costa Book Award for his account of how a collection of Japanese figurines came into his family's possession. Edmund de Waal, who attended the King's School, Canterbury, and is the son of a former dean of Canterbury Cathedral, picked up the prize in the biography category.

His book – *The Hare with Amber Eyes* – tells how he came across his great-uncle's collection of 264 netsuke figurines while in Japan, and what they say about his family's history. The overall winner will be announced on January 25.

# Dismay after care home objections are 'ignored'

CAMPAIGNERS against the closure of care homes for the elderly say their objections have been "ignored" by Kent County Council officers, *writes Steve Knight.*

Despite thousands of people expressing opposition through letters, questionnaires and petitions during a 19-week consultation, the authority is being advised to move ahead with virtually the same proposals that were put forward in June, 2010. These include the closure of four care homes and the selling-off or rebuilding of a further seven.

"It's frustrating because there have been some good campaign points and opposition from the public and from us," said David Lloyd, secretary of the Kent branch of Unison. "We are concerned that despite carers, residents, families and union members all being against the proposals, their views are not being taken into account.

### Upheaval

"People are worried about whether or not they will receive the same level of care. It has also been suggested the upheaval caused by this could be fatal for some elderly people, which would be devastating.

"However, we remain optimistic that some degree of common sense and sensitivity will come into it."

The care homes earmarked for closure are Ladesfield in Whitstable; Sampson Court in Deal; The Limes in Dartford; and Lawrence House in Folkestone.

Bowles Lodge in Hawkhurst, Cornfields in Dover, and Manorbrooke in Dartford, are to be demolished and replaced with 'extra care' social housing that would allow residents to live independently but with carers available 24 hours a day.

The shake-up also affects Wayfarers in Sandwich, which will be sold as a going concern, and three Swale care homes – Kiln Court in Faversham, Doubleday Lodge in Sittingbourne, and Blackburn Lodge in Sheerness – that KCC will effectively sell off to the private sector and negotiate an agreement where it can retain rights to places.

Labour group leader Cllr Leslie Christie said only a handful of more than 16,000 people who took part in the consultation were in favour of the proposals.

He added: "I said at the start it would be an expensive exercise, the results of which would be ignored. I am sorry to say I was correct. It is a mockery of democracy and gives a clear indication of how little 'localism' means to KCC. In their report they recognise there was strong resistance, but have adopted a 'we know best' attitude."



CHOICE: KCC says change is essential to provide better care options for the elderly

The matter is due to be discussed by KCC's cabinet on Monday, and then by members of the council's adult social services overview and scrutiny committee on Wednesday.

The final decision will then be made by the cabinet member for adult social services, Cllr Graham Gibbens, who assured campaigners their views had been taken into account.

He said: "At this stage I'm open to what my cabinet colleagues say and to what those on the overview and scrutiny committee say, too.

"But it's important to recognise this whole thing is about how we are going to care for elderly people now and into the future. A lot

of the homes we have now were developed in the 1960s and '70s, and what was appropriate then is no longer appropriate now."

Cllr Gibbens said the changes would save about £2 million a year, but insisted it was also about providing better care and more choice. He pointed to a recent report by the Department for Work and Pensions that suggests some 10 million people in the UK – about 17 per cent of the population – will live to see their 100th birthday.

"The big debate is about how we care for elderly people today as well as the increased number over the next 20 to 40 years," he said.

"I would be facing even stiffer questions if I was to sit back and do nothing to prepare for that."

Responding to warnings that some elderly residents may die as a result of the changes, Cllr Gibbens assured families the process would be handled with professionalism.

He said: "Firstly, there will be no changes until I am satisfied alternative measures are in place and are working. Secondly, I give my assurance that every individual affected will be treated with dignity and respect, and that they and their families will be fully consulted about how any changes are handled.

"The evidence is there that if a move is properly planned and managed, the final outcome is very satisfactory."

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The Royal Engineers Museum, Chatham, is hosting a show about the Unknown Warrior

## Students end Senate sit-in

UNDERGRADUATES staging a protest over education cuts and rises in tuition fees have ended their four-week sit-in.

The group had been in the University of Kent at Canterbury's Senate building since December 8, staying over Christmas and New Year without heating and little food.

They left on Wednesday, but vowed to continue their campaign including demands for university vice-chancellor Julia Goodfellow to retract her signature from a letter, published in the Daily Telegraph, which supported tuition fee rises.

The university had sought a possession order to remove the six students had they not left voluntarily.





# THE INTERVIEW

BY NICK AMES

## When blood mixes with oil

**FORMER** soldier Glenn Fitzpatrick has used his experience of war to produce a unique collection of artworks.

Taking inspiration from his time as an ambulance driver in the first Gulf war, when coalition forces removed the invading Iraqis from Kuwait, the drawings and sculptures which form Symbols of Society are a powerful reminder that, for many veterans of combat, reintegration into normal life is not an easy transition.

Glenn – or ‘Fitzy’ as he is known in both the military and art worlds – suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder on his return to civilian life, and he works to raise funds for sufferers of combat stress as well as Help for Heroes.

Deployed as the driver of a converted armoured personnel carrier which was taking medics into fire fights, Glenn was in the desert in 1990 with war just weeks away.

“I was in the Queen’s Royal Irish Hussars, a tank regiment, aged just 18 and one of the youngest troopers there,” he said.

“It was Christmas and I decided to go to a Mass, I was bought up Catholic and always retained some sort of core belief.

“Going to a service wasn’t something I’d normally do, however. But when a couple of carols were being sung I was fighting back the tears. I was missing my family but I didn’t want anyone to see. After all, we are all supposed to be men of steel.”

### Trepidation

Glenn, 39, wanted to find an outlet from the trepidation of the days leading up to a war he knew was inevitable.

“You don’t bring all that armour out into one place for nothing,” he said.

So he decided to draw characters from cartoon magazine Viz on his comrades’ tanks.

“It was good for morale – comedy goes a long way,” said Glenn. “Everyone wanted a drawing of Roger Mellie or another favourite, like Johnny Fartpants.

“I started to get known and met people across the different ranks. They started saying they felt I had some talent and should go

to art school. So I said to myself, if I get out of here, I will.”

During the period of combat with Iraqi forces – defeated on the ground in 100 hours – he found himself and his ambulance in much demand.

“We were under fire from tanks trying to get to casualties,” he said. “One time there was a wounded Iraqi – he’d been hit maybe six times. The medics ran out to treat him while I ran round the perimeter, laying down covering fire.

### Instinct

“Sometimes in the Army it can be a fairly dormant life. But in combat the adrenalin and training kicks in and you act on instinct. It’s a relief the waiting is over, to be honest. I signed on for the minimum – three years – but never expected a war.”

After leaving the Army, he decided to pursue his interest in art and attended what is now the University College of Art, in his home city of Canterbury. His talent was recognised as he left with a Master’s degree.

“I intend my work to make a statement,” Glenn said. “I don’t wear my medal any more, even though I am proud of what we achieved – liberating Kuwait.

“Instead I want people to make up their own minds. One of my pieces shows a bayonet attached to a petrol pump.

“I’ve just called it 24862593, that was my Army number. You can be brutal about it and say it was a war for oil, but I like to leave it open to interpretation.”

On Wednesday, January 12, an exhibition of Glenn’s work is being staged at the Horsebridge Centre, Whitstable.

It is free to visitors and runs until the following Tuesday. A further event is planned for April in Margate, and the artist is currently talking to galleries about taking the show further afield.

“I was lucky,” he said. “After being a soldier I had something to fall back on. Others haven’t got that.

“Those who put their life on the line deserve a chance to find their true talents, so I believe free education for former servicemen and women is a right they should be able to take up.”



**BANG TO RIGHTS:** Glenn Fitzpatrick has pursued a career in art since the first Gulf war

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# 'Chaos' as birthing centres are closed

By **MARIJKE COX**

**HEALTH** bosses have come under fire for shutting birthing centres and keeping a brand new £300,000 maternity unit closed.

The move forms part of a five-month review by NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent and East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust into maternity services and how to accommodate the rising number of mothers-to-be.

Staff shortages have pushed health chiefs to move skilled midwives from low-risk birth centres in Dover and Canterbury to the acute unit in Ashford's William Harvey Hospital.

Traditional maternity units, at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford and the QEQM Hospital in Margate, are more medically geared than birthing centres with consultants, doctors and midwives on hand along with facilities for procedures such as Caesareans.

Birthing centres, at Dover and Canterbury, are midwife-led and for low risk deliveries.

During the review, mothers-to-be in the Canterbury area will have to travel to Ashford or Margate maternity units or to Dover's birthing centre.

Those in Thanet will continue to use the maternity unit at the QEQM hospital, while the birthing centre remains closed.

GPs and patient watchdogs have voiced concerns at the changes, with a Kent spokesman for the British Medical Association branding the system "chaotic".

Health chiefs put the changes down to tem-

porary staff shortages forcing the centre at Dover's Buckland Hospital to be closed in December, but it is due to re-open this month.

But the birthing services at Kent and Canterbury Hospital have now been suspended until the review is finished in May.

A new £300,000 midwifery-led centre at Margate's Queen Elizabeth Queen Mother hospital will also remain closed throughout the review. Not one baby has been born at the state-of-the-art facility.

Dr Paul Hobday, a representative for the British Medical Association and a Maidstone GP, said: "It shows a lack of foresight by politicians and people in charge.

"It's an overall mess of the system and people will feel disheartened, but they will only see the problems when they need the service.

"It's a chaotic system. Maternity services will go up and down like a yo-yo for the next few years and then end up being privatised."

Last month health secretary Andrew Lansley said Maidstone's maternity centre would close and services move to Pembury, despite a campaign against the changes.

Dr Hobday said: "Andrew Lansley ignored GPs. He ignored everybody."

Health chiefs said the review was needed to ensure the rising number of mums-to-be would receive high quality care and patient choice.

NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent's director lead for maternity services Hazel Carpenter, said: "Staffing units round the clock with the right level of midwifery skills can be difficult – this review is to ensure we can rise to the challenge and continue to provide safe care and the level of choice mothers-to-be expect, within our budget."

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# Sandy leads charge in New Year Honours list

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

**ASTRONAUT** Piers Sellers and respected former ITN newsreader Sandy Gall are among the Kentish personalities recognised in the New Year's Honours List.

Former Cranbrook schoolboy Sellers, 55, received an OBE for his work with Nasa while 83-year-old Gall, who still lives in Sevenoaks, was made a Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) for services to the people of Afghanistan.

The distinguished pair are among more than 20 of the county's most respected and hard-working individuals honoured in the list, which was announced on New Year's Eve.

Cranbrook School headteacher Angela Daly said: "We are delighted that Piers has been awarded an OBE. We are looking forward to seeing him when he visits in a fortnight to address a conference and talk with students.



**TOURISM ROLE:** Amanda Cottrell OBE

"It will be nice if he brings the OBE with him, but it is certainly well deserved as he is an inspirational speaker as well as an astronaut and certainly well worth listening to."

Meanwhile, **Amanda Cottrell** – chairman of the Visit Kent tourism agency and a former High Sheriff of the county – also picked up an OBE.

The resident of Challock, near Ashford, is also a trustee of Canterbury Cathedral and has served as a magistrate, parish councillor

and school governor, among many other roles, throughout her lifetime.

Responding to the honour bestowed upon her colleague, Visit Kent chief executive Sandra Matthews-Marsh said: "To anyone lucky enough to know Amanda, this honour will be no surprise. She is one in a million, with tremendous energy and drive.

"Amanda has dedicated her life to serving the people of Kent and assisting community groups and organisations in achieving their goals. Her work as chairman of Visit Kent is invaluable in supporting tourism, leisure and hospitality businesses and representing our county both at home and overseas.

"She is a remarkable person and I am delighted her contribution to our county has been recognised in the New Year Honours."

Oscar-winning film director **Andrea Arnold**, who grew up in Dartford, added an OBE to her trophy cabinet for services to the film industry.

The 49-year-old was an actor and children's television presenter in the 1980s but has now turned her talents to directing.

She famously referred to her Oscar for the short film *Wasp* as "the dog's bollocks" when she was handed the statuette in 2005.

Her other films include *Fish Tank*, and *Red Road*. She is now working on an adaptation of Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*.

Despite the national headlines being reserved for star recipients including actor David Suchet and singer Annie Lennox, there was still plenty of room for the unsung heroes who run our schools, make our communities safer, and devote their lives to charity.

Two such people are Broadstairs foster parents **Pat and Dave Courtney**, who have cared for more than 300 children over the past 45 years and were each made an MBE.

"It is an honour to be awarded an MBE," said Mrs Courtney. "I felt quite embarrassed when we were told – we only do the same as hundreds of other foster carers.

"We do fostering because we love it. It's a way of life for us. We are looking forward to collecting our MBEs and, despite being very nervous about it, I am sure it will be a memorable time."

While a handful of Kent residents were made CBEs and OBEs last week – including Canterbury council chief executive **Colin**



**RIGHT STUFF:** Astronaut Piers Sellers OBE

**Carmichael** (OBE) and Sevenoaks-based Towergate Partnership chairman **Dr Peter Cullum** (CBE) – the majority were awarded MBEs. These included Lydd-based Sea Cadets volunteer **Donald Davies**, highways engineer and Maidstone resident **Prof Ian Walsh**, and county councillor **Leyland Ridings**.

Cllr Ridings, who was also recently made an Honorary Fellow of Canterbury Christ Church University, is the deputy cabinet member for vulnerable children, and was recognised for services to local government.

He said: "I am truly humbled to receive this honour and was really surprised to be singled out. To be recognised for something I love doing means so much to me.

"During the past 13 years I have worked alongside some tremendous people from the public, private and voluntary sectors who make this county such a wonderful place."

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**FILM:** Andrea Arnold OBE



**FOSTER CARERS:** Pat and Dave Courtney, MBEs



**MBE:** Cllr Leyland Ridings



# home, abroad – and even up in space



RIDING HIGH: Broadcaster Sandy Gall CMG (on horseback) in Afghanistan

## NEW YEAR'S HONOURS

### Full list of Kent recipients

#### • Order of St Michael and St George (CMG)

**SANDY GALL**, broadcaster. Services to the people of Afghanistan

#### • Commanders of the Order of the British Empire (CBE)

**LESLIE CRAMP**, Maidstone. Deputy chief executive of the Insolvency Service at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

**DR PETER CULLUM**, Sevenoaks. Services to business and to charity

#### • Officers of the Order of the British Empire (OBE)

**PIERS SELLERS**, astronaut. Services to science

**COLIN CARMICHAEL**, Canterbury. Services to local government

**AMANDA COTTRELL**, Ashford. Services to the community in Kent

**ROBERT CUMMINES**, Lordswood. Services to reformed offenders

**ANDREW DUFFELL**, Yalding. Chief dealer of the UK Debt Management Office at HM Treasury

**JOHN QUIN**, Kingsdown. Services to ex-servicemen and women

**TINA SAMPSON**, Dartford. Head of direct communications unit at the Prime Minister's Office

**ANDREA ARNOLD**, Dartford. Services to the film industry

#### • Members of the Order of the British Empire (MBE)

**DR TARIQ ABBASI**, London. Services to the community cohesion in the London boroughs of Greenwich and Bexley

**LINDA CHAPMAN**, Tonbridge. Services to young people in Kent

**DAVID COURTNEY**, Broadstairs. Services to families

**PATRICIA COURTNEY**, Broadstairs. Services to families

**DONALD DAVIES**, Lydd. Voluntary services to Sea Cadet Corps

**CAROLINE ELLIOTT**, Tunbridge Wells. Voluntary services to the Trinity Theatre

**GARY FAGG**, New Romney. Services to the community in New Romney

**PETER MARTINELLI**, Sevenoaks. Services to Smithfield market, London

**GILLIAN MCKINNON**, Marden. Senior personal assistant at HM Treasury

**PAUL MURRAY**, Maidstone. Services to education

**CAROLINE REESON**, Sevenoaks. Services to disadvantaged people in London

**CLLR LEYLAND RIDINGS**, Sandwich. Services to local government

**SIMON SOUTHWORTH**, Tonbridge. Services to healthcare

**VIVIANNE SPRATT**, Canterbury. Services to the community in Littlebourne

**RODNEY THOMAS**, Ramsgate. Voluntary service to education

**PROF IAN WALSH**, Maidstone. Services to highway engineering

## Search sparked by cliff collapse

A CLIFF fall on New Year's Day sparked a police search after fears that walkers could be trapped under the rubble.

Tonnes of chalk fell in St Margaret's Bay, between Deal and Dover, crashing onto the beach below, not far from the Coastguard pub and restaurant, at about 1pm on Saturday, January 1.

Officers interviewed witnesses and searches were made using rescue dogs, thermal imaging cameras and specialist listening equipment to ensure that no-one out walking was injured or trapped during the land-slip.

Police are warning walkers and visitors to avoid the cliffs as this was the second rock fall in a week.

## Moped rider dies

THE family of a moped rider killed on New Year's Eve have paid tribute to him.

Adam Cothill, 25, from Dover, was on the A2 between Canterbury and the port when he came off his bike before being run over.

A witness told police that after colliding with the central reservation Adam was hit by a lorry. The driver may have been unaware of what had happened as it was dark and carer Adam was wearing dark clothing.

His parents, Kay and Matt, and two brothers, Harvey and Aaron, said in a statement: "He had a passion for music, bikes and films, but most of all in-line rollerblading. As in his work, he cared for everybody: his family, his dog Rio and especially his girlfriend Anna."

Police checked all the lorries parked on the A2 and at the Port of Dover, but were unable to trace the vehicle, believed to be foreign registered, reportedly involved.

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## Cuts lead to prison riot fears

PRISON officers have warned of riots at jails throughout Kent if severe Government spending cuts continue to decimate the service.

The prediction follows a violent disturbance at Ford open prison, West Sussex, on New Year's Day when 40 inmates went on the rampage, setting fire to buildings and causing around £3 million of damage.

And according to Steve Gillan of the Prison Officers' Association, the next riot could just as easily take place in Kent.

"If the Government continues to cut the prison service budget then we won't be able to guarantee the safety of prisoners or staff because our jobs will be made more difficult," he said. "If there can be a riot at Ford then there can be a riot at any prison. You wouldn't have expected it there because the offenders who are coming to the end of their sentences."

"But in regard to other prisons, if you keep cutting the number of staff and increasing the

number of prisoners then it's inevitably going to cause problems."

Last year inmates at the Cookham Wood young offenders' institute in Rochester staged several riots, the most recent of which took place just after Christmas, when the youngsters threatened to set their wing on fire.

Four months earlier another group of unruly youngsters caused more than £10,000 of damage during a five-hour protest.

Mr Gillan is the current general secretary of the POA, having been promoted from his role as national executive member representing the cluster of prisons on the Isle of Sheppey.

A spokesman for the National Offender Management Service said staffing levels at Ford had been risk-assessed and were considered "appropriate" for an open prison.

He added: "Incidents in open prisons are rare, and it is to the credit to the staff involved that no significant injuries were sustained."

## Campaigners call for performance review

# Southeastern trains 'beyond redemption'

LONG-suffering commuters have been met with more misery after narrowly missing out on compensation despite the recent rail chaos, *writes Marijke Cox*.

It follows a review into punctuality where Southeastern revealed it had run 82.04 per cent of its trains on time in the past year.

Had it fallen below the 82 per cent target, season ticket holders would have been eligible for a five per cent reduction in fares.

Furious campaigners have questioned the statistics and called for an independent review into the company's performance, which was heavily criticised last month after it failed to run efficiently during the ice and snow, leaving hundreds stranded.

Tunde Olatunji, Kent manager of rail watchdog Passenger Focus, said standards over the last year had been disappointing.

"Given that Southeastern has so narrowly avoided paying compensation, especially when performance was so disrupted in the last period, it is only right that an independent party looks at the figures to make sure there are no errors," he said.

### Accuracy

"Southeastern's performance has been disappointing and passengers will want to be assured the results are free from error."

A spokeswoman for the rail company said punctuality and performance statistics were calculated using the standard industry methods and the process was independently audited.

But Kent MPs have backed calls for a review, and questioned why commuters are paying more for a poor service.

Price hikes averaging 7.8 per cent were brought in on January 2, and on popular lines they were increased by almost 13 per cent, meaning some passengers pay more than £5,000 for a season ticket.

Mark Reckless, Tory MP for Rochester and Strood, where commuters saw a nine



**NO COMPENSATION:** The punctuality figures are another blow to commuters

per cent – or £276 – rise on season tickets, said Southeastern should be stripped of its franchise, which is due to run out in 2012.

"The distribution of these latest fare increases, combined with the news that commuters will not enjoy an automatic season ticket discount despite the pitiful performance in December, suggests Southeastern is beyond redemption," he said.

Fellow Tory MP for North Thanet Roger Gale has also stressed he will not support any renewal of the franchise.

And protestors from Campaign for Better Transport launched a campaign called Fair Fares Now in a bid to get Government to ditch its above-inflation price rises.

Stephen Joseph, chief executive of the campaign group, said: "Commuters in the South East fare the worst of anywhere in the country, with some being asked to pay £5,192, or 20 per cent of the average UK salary, for their annual season ticket."

"That's the equivalent of David Cameron paying £28,628 for a season ticket."

A Southeastern spokesman said: "Nobody likes to see prices rise, but it is the stated policy of the Government to move the cost of train travel towards passengers and away from the general taxpayer."

"The amount of taxpayer subsidy we receive from the Government reduces year-on-year and to offset this we need to raise the fares to make up the difference and to minimise the burden on taxpayers."

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KENT ON SUNDAY



By **MARIJKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

FAMILIES with no local connections may be forced to face a panel of judges to decide whether they are eligible for council housing.

The move is being considered by Gravesham Borough Council as part of the Government's localism agenda which looks to prioritise local people.

If the changes are approved at Monday's cabinet meeting, people without links to the area will no longer automatically get on the social housing waiting list.

Any household wishing to move into Gravesham will instead have to face a special panel that will rule on their eligibility.

Cabinet member for housing Cllr Anthony Pritchard, who will head up the panel alongside the council's director for housing and environment, said the plan highlights the council's policy of providing local homes for local people.

### Localism agenda

"It is our prime objective to provide good quality social housing first and foremost for the people of Gravesham," he said.

"We have made a start in planning to build the first new council homes in decades and we will continue our commitment to improve and provide more homes.

"This change will enable us to better meet local needs and embrace the government's localism agenda."

There are currently 3,180 households on Gravesham's council house waiting list, with the average waiting time varying according to the type of property needed.

For example, a three-bedroom flat is nine months, and a four-bedroom property two years.

One of the main objectives behind

# If you're not local, you're not moving in

## New agenda aims to make it harder for outsiders to claim social housing

the proposal is to avoid the predicted increase in the number of applicants who may be prompted to move due to changes in the benefit system.

From April there will be a cap on housing handouts at £400 a week for a four-bedroom house, £340 for a three-bedroom property, £290 for two-bedrooms and £250 for a one-bedroom home.

There are fears that claimants living in London who are no longer able to afford high rents will be pushed to Kent's towns where it is cheaper.

But while Gravesham council said changes to policy would help push the

moved from area to area with no hope of ever establishing a connection.

"It is also vital where someone has no local connection after fleeing violence or abuse that the individual's safety overrides any policy."

A Department for Communities and Local Government spokesman said: "The Localism Bill will change the law to give local councils greater power to manage their waiting lists and give priority to needy local people. Councils will be able to operate a more focused waiting list – which better reflects local circumstances and can be more easily understood by local people."

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Information about how social services, charities and local voluntary organisations can help you will also be available.

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The Eastern and Coastal Kent Community Health NHS Trust Board Meeting in Public will also take place at The Ark on the same day starting at 1:30pm and closing at 4:30pm. Refreshments are provided between the Showcase and the Board Meeting.

Copies of the Board Papers are available on our website, please visit [www.eckcommunityservices.nhs.uk](http://www.eckcommunityservices.nhs.uk).

For questions relating to the Board Meeting please contact Jill Mackenzie on 01233 667840 or email [jill.mackenzie@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk](mailto:jill.mackenzie@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk).

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## Water misery as pipe bursts again

MORE than 100 homes were left without water for hours when a mains pipe burst for the second time in less than seven months.

The pipe split near St John's Church in Hildenborough last Sunday.

Mains supply was also lost at this site in June last year after a burst pipe left thousands of households without water.

A spokesman for South East Water apologised for the inconvenience.

This came a day after a section of the main road through Meopham collapsed on New Year's Eve, leaving 250 homes without water. Southern Water restored supply to affected homes during the bank holiday weekend.

Traffic on the A227 Wrotham Road through Meopham is expected to be affected for several weeks while the 12ft hole is repaired.

# Campaigners outraged at bid to revive airport plans

AVIATION experts have pointed to the winter havoc at London airports as proof that controversial plans for a new hub in Kent should be revived.

Residents and environmental campaigners were overjoyed when plans for an airport at Cliffe, near Rochester, were shelved in December, 2003, on the grounds that the costs were too high and the site would not be well used.

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

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However, an independent aviation group led by the former commercial director of Cathay Pacific – John Olsen – claims recent infrastructure developments, including high-speed rail, have made Cliffe a viable option again.

Mr Olsen told the Financial Times: "I think Boris

(London Mayor Boris Johnson) is right that we need a new airport in the UK, but he's got the wrong location.

"This is not just a way of dramatically improving aviation in the UK. It's part of a much bigger plan of regeneration in the Thames Gateway area, and with the high-speed rail link it's already better connected than Heathrow. This is about using what we've got already."

Referring to the salt marshes of the Hoo Peninsula where the proposed airport would be located, Mr Olsen added: "It's the best piece of undeveloped land anywhere near any major city in Europe."

Mr Olsen first called for the Government to look again at the Cliffe proposals last October, claiming there was now a much more compelling case to build the £14 billion, three-runway, 24-hour airport.

However, just days later Prime Minister David Cameron reiterated during Prime

Minister's Questions that the Department for Transport had no plans to build a new airport anywhere in Kent.

The statement appeared to have also put paid to Boris Johnson's equally controversial plans for an airport in the Thames estuary, off the coast of Sheppey.

Medway Council's Tory leader Cllr Rodney Chambers said at the time: "I am furious this unwelcome proposal to concrete over the Hoo Peninsula is back on the table."

"In 2003 we successfully fought proposals to build an airport on green fields and internationally important wetlands in Medway and we will do so again."

"The solution to increasing airport capacity in the South East needs to involve using capacity nationally, not destroying a precious greenfield site."

"This is an obscene proposal that must never be allowed to get off the ground."

Protect Kent – the county branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England – is also against the proposals.

A spokesman said: "Even with bird control measures in place, flights to and from this site would be at an exceptionally high risk of bird strike – some 10 times greater than at any other UK airport."

"It is time we scotched the idea that north Kent or the River Thames can support an airport that would be so environmentally and economically unsustainable."

## Bulletproof Carl's a cool cat in war zone

A DEAL soldier on his third tour of Afghanistan's Helmand province has now twice been saved by his body armour after being shot – earning him the nickname "bullet magnet", *writes Nick Ames*.

Lance Bombardier Carl Jordan, 26, has been shot on two occasions in the line of duty and both times would almost certainly have been killed by the insurgent rounds, had he not been wearing the British Forces' latest issue Osprey body armour.

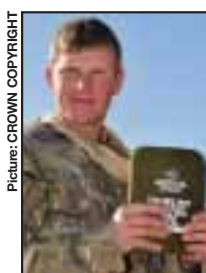
Now friends have started giving him other nicknames – The Cat for his nine lives and James Bond because "you only live twice".

In action the soldier has received gun shots to the body, once to his front and once to his side – but on both occasions he walked away unscathed as his armour did the job.

L/Bdr Jordan said: "I'm beginning to get a bit of a reputation, some of the lads call me The Cat but say I've only seven lives left now. Others have called me James Bond, saying I only live twice."

The first incident occurred while he was manning the defensive sangars protecting his patrol base. While monitoring an ongoing fire-fight he felt a kick to his front as part of his body armour was ripped off.

L/Bdr Jordan remembers using his radio to tell the Operations Room, where the co-ordination of battle takes place: "I think I've been shot", but after being checked out by the medic and having his damaged body armour replaced, he was passed fit.



**SAVED:** L/Bdr Carl Jordan shows off a plate of body armour

The second time the 7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery soldier was deployed on the ground in support of the opening of a new police station.

He spotted a build-up of suspicious figures in the distance and moved away from his support vehicle in order to take a bearing and send a report back.

At this point a large gun battle began, with the enemy firing from a number of different positions.

L/Bdr Jordan felt a kick to his side, which he took to be his driver trying to get his attention, he continued: "On returning to base I discovered the gunshot damage to the side plate of my body armour."

"The situation on the ground meant there was no time to think about what had happened. I had a quick cigarette, even though I have actually given up, changed my side plates and deployed back out on to the ground again."

"I felt we needed to get back out there to show presence to locals and insurgents alike – to show we were not defeated and not fazed – and I wanted to be part of that."

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A WOMAN suffered a "serious" sexual assault in Deal.

The attack took place in St Richard's Road, on Sunday, January 2, at 3.20am when the woman in her early 20s was grabbed from behind and sexually assaulted.

The man is a white male, approximately 40 years old, with short, shaved receding brown hair. He wore mid-grey tracksuit bottoms, dark trainers and a dark blue waterproof jacket.

Police officers searched the area after the woman reported the attack.



**BATHING BEAUTY:** Enjoying the sunshine**DEEP BLUE:** Outdoor pool diving boards**SANDS OF TIME:** On Ramsgate beach**TRANSPORT OF DELIGHT:** Town station

# Resort's heyday flickers to life

By **MARIJKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

A NOSTALGIC film tipped to kick-start debates over the future of a once-thriving tourist hotspot is being screened after overwhelming demand from residents.

Thanet on Film, which was first shown in Broadstairs in 2009, will be screened for the first time in Ramsgate, with added features focusing on the history of the seaside town.

The screening of the special edition is in response to countless requests from residents, according to the film's producer, Christine Tongue.

"Over the last 12 months, many, many people from Ramsgate have asked us to show the film in the town," she said. "But we waited to do it until we had time to put together a special Ramsgate edition, something that

**HIGH AND MIGHTY:** Marina pool in 1950s

would really push buttons for local people."

The film includes extra footage from the 1920s, 1950s and 1970s, as well as more recent times.

"There are lots of nostalgic shots of the beach, the attractions and the summer crowds," said filmmaker Ms Tongue. "It gives a fantastic impression of how Ramsgate

has changed since its holiday heyday."

A special item included in the new edition focuses on the old Pleasurama site, which is still derelict and awaiting construction, despite having had planning permission since 2005.

Ms Tongue said: "The film tells the long saga of big promises and prolonged dereliction which has bedeviled Ramsgate seafront for so many years now. It's an absolute scandal what's happened to the seafront and the film will, I'm sure, raise strong emotions."

An extended feature on Manston airport is also included in the film – a subject which has caused controversy after plans to overturn the ban on night flights were announced last year.

A consultation is planned which is expected to attract opposition from people living in Thanet, many of whom are against any expansion of the airport.

Ms Tongue said: "Few things have sparked greater debate in the town than the airport

and the film provides an important perspective on this bitter, ongoing controversy."

The special Ramsgate edition of Thanet on Film also includes interviews with Thanet District Council leader Cllr Bob Bayford and Thanet South MP Laura Sandys.

Issues such as the China Gateway, a scheme looking to create a globalised business centre near Manston, and Thanet Earth, the UK's largest greenhouse complex, are featured in the film.

The regeneration of Margate, with the creation of a heritage amusement park and the launch of the Turner Contemporary in April, is also included.

Thanet on Film, the Ramsgate edition, will be screened on Thursday, January 13, at the Granville Cinema, Victoria Parade, Ramsgate. Booking is advisable. For tickets, call 01843 591750.

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## Hugh gets teed off

HOLLYWOOD star Hugh Grant was left unimpressed as his new Ferrari broke down on his way to play golf.

The 50-year-old actor was at the wheel of a new Ferrari California when he ran into a spot of bother and the £120,000 car came to a halt as he approached a roundabout near Sandwich.

According to witnesses Grant had to mount the curb and steer the vehicle onto the grass verge so he didn't block the busy road.

The Love Actually star got his golfing equipment out of the car and was then picked up by a friend.

## Tunnel connection

BRITAIN and France will join forces and bring mobile phone coverage to passengers using the Channel Tunnel in time for the 2012 Olympics – based on technology used to communicate with the trapped Chilean miners last year.

It is believed Vodafone, O2, Everything Everywhere and 3 have joined forces with French counterparts to share the expected £20 million cost of providing coverage along the tunnel's 31.4-mile length.

Coverage is likely to be provided by a long transmitter snaking along the top of the tunnel, with antennas on the ends of each carriage.

## Police chief named

CHIEF Supt Mark Nottage has been named as the new police commander for East Kent.

He said: "I have been out on patrol and visited the police stations in the area and it is clear to me that officers and staff have the commitment and dedication to ensure we provide an excellent service."

Chief Supt Nottage started his career in Ashford in 1995 aged 21 and before coming to East Kent he worked in Medway, South Kent and at police headquarters in Maidstone.

He replaces John Molloy who has moved to take command of the West Kent police area.

# Genetic warfare used to eradicate bee killer ...but honey producers question scientists' claims

By NICK AMES

BEEKEEPERS across Kent have welcomed news of a breakthrough in the fight against the blood-sucking varroa mite parasite – but with reservations about its effectiveness.

For 20 years it has ruthlessly attacked hives, wiping out millions of bees and bringing misery to honey producers.

The 2mm bug drills a hole in the honey bee's back and drinks its blood while injecting viruses to suppress the bee's immune system, leaving it vulnerable to disease.

Attempts to wipe it out failed as the mite, which looks like a brown crab and first arrived in Britain in 1992 from the Continent, became increasingly resistant to chemicals.

Now researchers have developed a new technique that turns off genes in the pest's DNA, forcing the bugs to self-destruct.

Although the treatment is still experimental, it could eventually kill the mites without harming bees.

To tackle the pest, bee researchers harnessed a method called RNA interference. RNA is a chemical cousin of DNA and helps carry genetic messages around cells. The technique involves putting small pieces of RNA into an organism which silence a particular gene.



**LETHAL:** The varroa mite drills into bees

"This sounds extremely good news and looks like it could be the way forward," said Jamie Collins who manages the hives at Kencol Farm Apiaries, Staplehurst, near Maidstone.

"This is a real problem which needs to be tackled and it has been going on for some time."

In England alone the bee population has shrunk by 54 per cent since the 1980s, as a result of the varroa mite, pesticides, industrial farming and disease. Farmers say the decline could be disastrous because bees are vital for pollinating crops and are worth an estimated £200 million to farming each year.

Dr Alan Bowman of the University of Aberdeen, who led the study, said the technique fooled the immune system of the parasite into attacking itself.

"This can target the mite in the hive," he said. "It would be completely selective – it wouldn't target the bees and wouldn't affect any other pollinating insects, such as ladybirds."

But Julian Audsley, secretary of the Canterbury Beekeepers group, said: "It's very interesting and certainly we are learning a lot about the parasite and the way it works."

"The scientists are doing a great job, but I have to wonder how effective this treatment will be. The parasite has survived for a long time so I am not sure that it will just self-destruct. It must be very robust."

"We are often hearing of new developments in this area, but they then turn out to be ineffective. So we shall have to wait and see."

Joyce Collins, who runs Kencol Apiary, added: "When you tweak nature you don't know what's going to happen. In America recently during crops spraying, frogs were dying and no-one knew why."

"It later transpired the spray was causing a chain reaction which killed off pond growth and allowed a parasite to flourish which was killing off the frogs."

"So messing with nature is something people should be very careful about doing."

Martin Smith, president of the British Beekeepers' Association, said: "While this research is at the early stage, we are pleased that work is being undertaken to try to control the varroa mite which remains the largest threat to bee-keeping in this country."

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# Friends and family remember Big Joe

TRIBUTES have been paid to a "hugely loved" soldier who became the Army's first casualty in Afghanistan of 2011, **writes Marijke Cox.**

Canterbury-based Private Joseva Saqanagonedau Vatubua who served with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders 5th Battalion the Royal Regiment of Scotland, which is stationed at Howe Barracks, was killed on New Year's Day.

The 24-year-old, who was born in Fiji, had been part of an operation targeting known enemy firing positions in the Nahr-e-Saraj district of Helmand Province when he was fatally wounded in an explosion.

He leaves behind his wife Claudette.

In a statement his family said: "We can't put into words how proud we are of Joseva. He loved his job and he loved being in the family of the Royal Regiment of Scotland."

"Joseva was also a member of the Battalion's Fijian Choir and has sung in Canterbury Cathedral. He was a hugely loved man who we will always miss but never forget."

Canterbury Rugby Club also paid tribute to the soldier, who was known as Big Joe, and represented the club in Kent Cup and Invicta League games.

Spokesman David Haigh said: "There has always been a strong bond between the regiments based in Canterbury and the club."

"The tragic loss to Joe's family and the regiment is a loss shared by the club."

Pte Vatubua's memory will be honoured before the club's first home game of the New Year next Saturday.

Comrades have also paid tribute.

Commanding officer Lieutenant Colonel Adam Griffiths MBE, said they had lost a 'loyal, well-loved and respected young soldier'.

"Pte Joseva Vatubua approached everything with an infectious sense of humour and a commitment that society would do well to emulate," he said. "However, his outwardly shy persona belied a real presence both at work and play, particularly on the rugby field."

"Fearless in battle, while empathetic to the predicament of Afghanistan and the people living around his patrol base, he was at his best on operations, demonstrating a real awareness and understanding of what he was being asked to do."

"It was always a wonderful sight to see this mountain of a man surrounded by children when on patrol."

Private Michael Duffy spoke on behalf of 4 Platoon, B Company, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

"You always had a smile on your face, even when times were bad, and we will always miss that smile," he said.

"You are gone now, our big friendly giant, but you will always be remembered by the boys of 4 Platoon."



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# Mead is a happy ending to your Canterbury tale

ONE of the world's oldest alcoholic drinks is making a comeback in 2011, writes Nick Ames.

The Canterbury Tales visitor attraction is looking to help bring back a nation's favourite tipple from a bygone age by offering visitors a free tasting session of mead.

The drink dates back to the late 1300s and the attraction is hoping to help it once again become a popular beverage.

Mead was once drunk from decorated horns by kings in banqueting or mead halls, and even the legendary King Arthur is thought to have enjoyed regularly drinking it, according to the tales of the Round Table.

In Chaucer's work The Canterbury Tales the author praised mead and in the Millers Tale, the merry priest woos his lady love with the best mead he can buy.

Steve Beer, the attraction manager said, "We're one of the very few places in Canterbury that stocks mead, with four different types on sale.

"We've seen a big rise in our mead sales, so people have obviously heard that we're selling it.

"It's a delicious drink, particularly for this time of year, and by offering people a taster we hope it will help to bring back a favourite from a bygone age.

## Favourite

"Years ago, mead was the nation's favourite alcoholic drink, but greater competition had entered the market by the 14th century when imported French wine was actually cheaper than the honey needed just to make it.

"By the 17th century, imports of cheap sugar reduced the importance of honey in the domestic economy and as such mead-making never really recovered.

"Chaucer refers to mead quite regularly throughout The Canterbury Tales so it's appropriate that we can offer adult visitors a chance to sample some at the end of their tour with us.

"The history around mead is quite interesting as well, helping to create the word 'honeymoon' when a bride's father would offer the lucky couple a full month's

(moon) worth of mead in order to be fruitful."

Different types of mead on offer for visitors to sample at the end of their tour include traditional mead and a whiskey and mead blend.

**RAISE A TANKARD: A popular tipple in medieval times, mead is now on sale at the Canterbury Tales visitor attraction**



## Robbers attacked pensioner at home

AN ELDERLY woman was robbed by two men who barged their way into her home and took cash and jewellery.

The 84-year-old woman was left shocked and her wrists bruised when they were grabbed by the intruders during the robbery in St Swithin's Road, Whitstable, at 9pm on Monday, January 3.

The woman told police she had answered the door and two men forced their way into her home.

They pushed her down on to a chair and then searched the property.

It is believed they were both wearing grey hooded tops and had covered their faces.

Det Chief Insp Tony Pledger said: "This is a particularly unpleasant crime as the victim is elderly and was left very shocked by the incident."

Anyone with information can call Det Con Zac Foote on 01843 222069 or Crime-stoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

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# Booze policing levy just another tax, say venues

By **JOE BILL**

joe.bill@kosmedia.co.uk

LATE-night pubs and clubs could be forced to stump up extra fees to help pay for policing drinkers.

Councils will have the right to ask establishments which operate after midnight to help pay for local law enforcement as well as taxi marshals and street wardens.

The Home Office has released figures showing that 21 per cent of violent incidents occur near a pub or club, and that is why it is bringing in the 'multiplier' charge for premises that sell alcohol.

The charge will be set on a sliding scale, depending on the size of the nightspot, and will range from a few hundred pounds for small premises to £4,500 for the largest.

A Home Office spokesman said: "This will ensure larger pubs and clubs contribute more than restaurants and theatres, which may serve alcohol but are likely to have a smaller impact on late-night crime."

The Government confirmed the plans after the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill received its second reading in the Commons last month.

The Home Office said the new law would not tar all establishments with the same brush and that each nightspot will be looked at on a case-by-case basis.

But Phil Thorley, operations director of Thanet-based Thorley Taverns, voiced frustra-



**GOOD TIMES:** But cleaning up our streets in the aftermath of late-night sessions in pubs and clubs – particularly the policing burden – has led to plans for a levy on premises which serve alcohol

tion at the new rules, which could affect his company's pubs, clubs and hotels.

He said: "We are definitely against it. To me it just seems like a further tax. Our industry is already one of the most taxed in the country. When we buy, we are taxed. When we retail, we are taxed. We pay high rates already – it's just another tax."

"We are vehemently against this and we will be writing to our MP."

Councils will, however, be able to exempt hotels that only serve their own customers.

There are ways for pubs to avoid paying the full fee, if they demonstrate efforts in

reducing the impact of their business on the community.

Examples of this include the pub becoming a member of watchdog schemes such as Best Bar None and Pubwatch. A Government official said it hoped to "avoid impacting on community pubs by restricting the fees to establishments that are open after midnight".

Venues and premises that want to avoid paying the levy will be allowed to change their opening hours.

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## 'Stay away with minor ailments'

THE NHS is urging people with colds, flu or tummy bugs to think twice before going to casualty departments or their GP.

NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent director of nursing Sarah Andrews said: "Most people who catch colds, flu or tummy bugs will get better on their own in a few days."

"Antibiotics have no effect on these and will not be prescribed. The best advice is to stay at home, keep warm, and drink plenty of fluids. This also reduces the risk of spreading germs."

Those worried about their own condition or that of a friend or relative are asked to phone their GP practice, or NHS Direct on 0845 4647.

A DISTRESSED family found the body of their pet cat hanging on a fence with its tail severed. The black and white female, called Ellie, was wedged in the spikes at the top of the fence near their home in Gravesend on Christmas Eve.

"We think Ellie was put there deliberately as it is unlikely that she could have climbed up. She had no other injuries, apart from her tail being cut off," said RSPCA inspector Alison Fletcher.

Anyone with information can call the RSPCA on 0300 123 4999.

## Coastguards saved

DOVER coastguard station will form a key part of a slimmed down search and rescue service – if new proposals get the go-ahead.

The Department for Transport plans to close more than half of the UK's coastguard stations, with just three operational 24 hours a day – including Dover.

Staff numbers across the service will be slashed from 491 to 248, although regular coastguards supporting RNLI volunteers will increase from 80 to 105.

The plans include new technology to help integrate the remaining coastguard stations.

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THE great-great grandson of Charles Dickens is staging a one-man show to raise funds to preserve a former property of the great author.

During the Mr Dickens is Coming! show Gerald Dickens will take a light-hearted look at the life of his ancestor, using scenes from his works, diary extracts and

observations from friends. He will also perform his one-man version of Nicholas Nickleby.

The show will at the Britannia Theatre, Dickens World, Chatham, on February 11, at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10, by calling 01634 89042 or from [www.dickensworld.co.uk](http://www.dickensworld.co.uk). Proceeds will go towards saving the Dickens chalet in Rochester.

THIEVES may have got more than they bargained for they stole a parrot that is described as vicious and prone to attacking people.

The two African grey parrots stolen from the garden aviary of a home in Sittingbourne last month.

One of the birds, Percy, has a bald chest where he plucks his

own feathers out. Police said: "He is vicious and will attack people."

The second, Pip, is more friendly. Both are able to speak and the owners said they would want to be kept together.

The thieves, who got into the garden after pulling back a fence, also took a black parrot carrier.

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# LETTERS

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## LETTER OF THE WEEK

### Don't cut this social lifeline

In the Comprehensive Spending Review, Chancellor George Osborne announced the Government would be removing the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for those in residential care homes.

Disability charities and organisations, such as Mencap, are campaigning against this decision. We are concerned that, as an unintended consequence, many people with a learning disability will no longer be able to afford to go out and meet friends and families, participate in social activities and engage with their communities.

I believe the Government has misunderstood how disabled people use this important benefit. Without this lifeline, many disabled people in residential care will lose much of their independence.

Mary Whitton, Maidstone

### Christmas ban is a delusion

Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams seems to be suffering from a persecution complex.

Most of the stories about people wanting to ban Christmas turn out to be untrue when investigated. In fact the only government which ever tried to ban Christmas was the Christian government of Oliver Cromwell. I believe the Free Presbyterians still want to.

The churches have nothing to complain about. They have guaranteed seats in the House of Lords, free air time on the broadcast media and their schools are paid for by the taxes of the secular majority.

There has been an excessive religious influence in government in recent years and it is the secular community who really need to be alert.

David Burgess, Hawkhurst

### Hold Cameron to fuel account

The New Year sees more pain at the pumps for drivers, with rises in fuel duty and VAT adding about 4p to the cost of a litre of petrol or diesel.

These increases don't just hurt the driver and our hard-pressed haulage industry, they produce price rises at the shops for everyone. Before the General Election, Prime Minister David Cameron complained about how the previous government had hammered drivers with taxes. He added that he had to do things very differently and make life easier for families facing sky-high motoring bills.

He even indicated he could help families by cutting fuel taxes when global fuel prices rise.

It is time to take Mr Cameron at his word. The Association of British Drivers calls on the Government to scrap above-inflation fuel duty rises set for the next three years, and also plans for road pricing for lorries. I urge readers to contact their

## OPINION: 'BIG SOCIETY' CHALLENGE

Kent County Council cabinet member **CLLR MIKE HILL** explains how four years of budget savings will affect the community services in his portfolio

**T**HERE are in my portfolio 15 frontline services delivered directly to the residents of Kent. These services – which include libraries, trading standards, adult education, community safety, and youth services – have a real impact on people's quality of life.

Therefore, at a time of recession and economic hardship, their importance increases. I need to make very significant savings in my budget over the next four years, but I am pleased to say that I intend to keep all these services going. We are not going to stop doing anything.

So how am I going to make these financial savings while keeping things going? Partly by doing things better, scrutinising every single service to drive up efficiency savings. But we also have to do things differently.

We cannot expect to continue to deliver services in the same old way, so there will be changes. Services may have a different shape and they may be of a different size, but the end result will continue to be high quality services for the residents of Kent.

That is the challenge I have put to the officers at the county council, and having discussed their proposals in detail with them, I am confident that we can achieve this aim. I want to give you a flavour of what we will be doing:

- Adult education. We will withdraw from many of our dedicated premises and make better use of schools and other KCC facilities, helping us to make capital savings.
- Trading standards. We will focus on the core issues of concern to residents, such as cracking down on rogue traders and underage sales of alcohol and cigarettes.
- Supporting people. 'Floating support' is for people in tenancies or who are homeowners, and is designed to provide short-term housing-related help to those who are in difficulty and to help them be independent where they live.

We will reorganise this support to reduce the amount allocated but provide a more targeted and personalised service to those in greatest need.

- Youth service. More charities work with young people than any other group, so let us work with these organisations.

Following discussions with young people, we will develop district-based hubs from which we will deliver a wide-ranging youth service, working closely with our district colleagues and increasingly commissioning work from the voluntary sector. We will also place more emphasis on outreach work such as the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

- Libraries. We have been working on a strategy to modernise the service for some years. The current financial pressures will provide added focus and impetus to this work.

We have already launched our proposals for self-issuing library books in our 30 busiest libraries this year and this will save significant sums.

We will continue to modernise big town centre libraries and include, where possible, other county and district services.

Our vision is for a core of first-class, modern libraries supplemented by smaller branch libraries where there is a proven need, and by a comprehensive mobile service to make sure there is widespread access to library services.

We will also explore and encourage the establishment of volunteer-run libraries in line with the 'Big Society' concept.

Our detailed plans are still being developed and we will be consulting widely with the public this year before any firm decisions are taken.

The restructuring of the county council will greatly increase the responsibilities of community services.

Our proposals to change the way we deliver our services fit in very well with these new areas of responsibility and I am confident that, despite the scale of the financial challenge we face, at the end of this process we will have really first-class services of which we can all be proud.

• **CLlr Mike Hill is Kent County Council's cabinet member for community services.**



MP at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA, or via [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk).

Brian MacDowall, Association of British Drivers

### That's enough giving for me

I see the Government wants to use the execution of our financial transactions as an excuse to remind us to give to charity.

Firstly, those of us who give are already pursued to give more by charities.

Although I have told all my charities I am now retired, they still expect me to keep up or increase donations. And charities such as the BBC's Children in Need, for example, keep up their emotional blackmail, despite whatever sums we may be giving elsewhere.

Second, as David Cameron and his ministers ignore my letters and emails, I'm obviously not part of the Big Society – which appears to be for rich and powerful ticket holders

only – so I don't wish to hear their opinions any more than they do mine. Third, as ministers didn't even have the sense to protect the image of the Queen on our stamps in the great Royal Mail sell-off, I shudder at the thought of the dead hand of Government interfering in successful charities.

Fourth, what greater sign can we have from ministers such as Francis Maude that they don't have a clue what living is like for the ordinary person in the street, who struggles to make ends meet in the nightmare presented to us by government and bankers. They live in a dream world, create a nightmare for us and then expect us to give until it hurts.

Phil Granger, West Malling

### Begging for a referendum

Listening to David Cameron bragging about what he and others had achieved with the EU reminded me of Neville Chamberlain pronounc-

ing: "Peace in our time".

The Prime Minister has achieved nothing, as he will find out when the other countries who are taking from the pot and not putting in show him. He doesn't seem to realise this country does not want to see him begging these people not to take so much of our money.

What British people want is a referendum. Of course that terrifies him and Parliament, as they know the answer would be "Get us out".

If Labour leader Ed Miliband really wants to win the next election, all he has to do is give a cast-iron pledge about a referendum on Europe. No funny stuff like they always try, just a simple in or out. Cameron doesn't have the guts, and don't hold your breath on Miliband.

RE Tucker, Sheerness

### Horses saddled with the agony

With more protests a strong likelihood in 2011, the recent violent clashes between mounted police and students raises questions about the welfare of



### Give doctors the time to save lives

BACK in 2008 we launched a campaign urging our readers to wash their hands and help in the fight against hospital superbugs.

While it is a message that should obviously be adhered to on a daily basis anyway, the fact Kent is running dangerously low on flu vaccines makes it all the more important.

As anyone who has suffered from the virus will know, influenza is a particularly nasty illness that can be fatal to more vulnerable members of society, such as the elderly. It is therefore imperative we do all we can to beat the bug.

In addition to improving our own hygiene and following the NHS 'catch it, kill it, bin it' message, this also means only visiting your doctor for treatment if you really do need it.

It is understandable that some members of the public are worried at the daily reports of the flu epidemic, but this does not mean they will definitely catch it nor that they will suffer the worst of it if they do.

A cold is not the same as the flu – nowhere near in fact – so we should all think twice before asking our GPs if we can be issued with medicine.

While doctors are obviously good at deciding whether or not somebody should get a prescription, it would make their lives a lot easier if they did not have to deal with hypochondriacs on an hourly basis.

It could also be the difference between life and death for some people who really do need the help.

### Queen's list shows we're a talented lot

CONGRATULATIONS to all those recognised in the New Year's Honours list.

With more than 20 Kent recipients – ranging from an astronaut to a teacher – it just shows how much talent we have in this county.

Well done, and let's hope it inspires others to reach for the stars.

horses. The police horses were subjected to frightening levels of violence. From one side, missiles rained down and, from the other, officers kicked spurs into their mounts and used truncheons to drive them into terrifying and chaotic scenes.

Police horses undergo training for such situations but their impulse would be to flee.

They and are only stopped from doing so by physical restraint.

Submissive control comes from the use of multi-pressure double-reined Pelham bits, which subject the horse to considerable pain should it try to resist.

And spurs intimidate the horse into capitulation. Such brutal methods have been used for centuries on war horses.

Today, horses remain as tools for crowd control by the police. It is time for this animal abuse to stop and for horses no longer to be used in what is essentially a dispute between two groups of people.

Dene Stansall, Animal Aid, Tonbridge





# BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400  
For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday on 01303 817150

## BIRTHS

### BROWN

Liz Healey and Chris Brown of Margate celebrate the birth of their son Harvey Allan Brown on 1st December 2010.

### BUTCHER

Maizie May born on 9th December 2010, weighing 9lbs 3.5ozs. Daughter to Elizabeth and Jonathan in Margate.

### CHIMA

Ranjit and Sundip celebrate the birth of their son Harshaan Singh on 4th December 2010.

### COOPER-BROCK

Kirsty and Daniel of Margate are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Macie Helen Cooper-Brock, born on 23rd December 2010, weighing 8lb 5oz. Mummy and Daddy's special little angel.

### DAWES

Graham Dawes and Joanne Laker would like to announce the birth of their daughter Evie Anna on the 1st December 2010 at Ashford Hospital weighing 7lb. A beautiful new sister to Olivia Chloe Dawes.

### DHILLON

Abigail and Jagminder are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Nelly Kaur Dhillon, born on 27th December 2010, weighing 8lb 14.5oz.

### FAWCUS

Charlotte Helen Carol born on 10th December 2010, weighing 6lb 15oz.

Daughter to Neil and Helen Fawcus in Maidstone.

### FRASER

Julie and Donald are proud to announce the birth of their beautiful son Joe David Andrew Fraser, born at The Queen Elizabeth Queen Mother Hospital on 22nd December 2010, weighing 7lb 8oz. Brother to big sister Millieann.

### GILES

Aidan Peter David Giles born on 25th December 2010, weighing 6lb 13oz. Son to Adrian and Maureen Giles in Headcorn.

### HAIGH

Christopher and Donna Haigh celebrate the birth of their son Harvey Christopher Haigh on 5th December 2010.

### LAMBERTON

Richard and Carley of Canterbury are pleased to announce the safe arrival of Florence Rose Lamberton on 3rd December. A little sister for Jacob James Lamberton.

### NEWCOMBE

Joshua Charles born on 22nd December 2010 weighing 8lb 8oz, son to Helen and Jim Newcombe of Kings Hill, West Malling.

### PEARCE

Thomas Samuel born on 13th December 2010, weighing 7lb 4oz. Son to Stuart and Natalie, brother to Lucia in Aylesford.

### PITHERS

Lissa and Terry Pithers celebrate the birth of their son Leo Rhys Pithers on 11th December 2010.

### WALLACE

Chloe Louise born on 29th November 2010 weighing 8lb 8oz. Daughter to Pauline and Tony Wallace in Dartford.

## DEATHS

### ALLEGRETTI

In loving memory of Kathleen Allegretti who passed away on 27th December 2010 at 100 years of age from her beloved daughter Giulietta and granddaughters Davina, Emma and Cheryl, together with great grandchildren Kerri-Ann, Charlotte, Mercedes, Jack and Connor, and great great grandson Kayden. All funeral enquiries to Chittendens Funeral Services (01303 851456).

### BARTLETT

Byron James Bartlett (BJ) of Dymchurch passed away on the 30th December 2010. Enquiries to Hambrook and Johns 01303 266525.

### BERG

Olive Winifred Berg died on 18th December 2010 aged 89. Dearly loved mother of Marie and William, grandmother to Sara, Louise and Jeremy, great grandmother to Bethany, William, Isabelle and Oliver.

Funeral service at Vinters Park Crematorium on Monday 10th January 2.45pm.

### BROWN

Joan Brown died peacefully on 20th December 2010. Funeral service at Vinters Park Crematorium on Thursday 6th January at 10.15.

### BYNG-MADDICK

Myra Joan Byng-Maddick died on the 16th December 2010. Mother of Antony, Christopher and Susan. Grandmother of Nicholas, Simon, Samantha, Melissa, Matthew, and Rachel. Great-Grandmother to Max, Luke and Liam. Will be sadly missed by all.

### GOODWIN

Percy Edmund Goodwin died peacefully on 19th December 2010. Dearly loved father of Bronya and Grandfather of William. Church service at Christchurch Church, Maidstone, at 12.15pm followed by burial at Sutton Road Cemetery on 5th January 2011. Contact Michael A Lawrence Funeral Directors on 01622 661678 for further details.

### HAINES

Margaret, of Walmer, Deal, passed away on 28th December 2010. She will be sadly missed by her daughter Maggie and partner Carmen, grandson David, granddaughter Kirsty, her three great grandsons, and all who knew and loved her. Sleep well Nanny.

### JANCIC

Radmila Jancic died peacefully on 17th December 2010. Loving wife to Milovan, mother to Aleks and Antony and grandmother to Luka, Finlay, Gus, Phoebe, Hugo and Scout. Funeral enquiries to Welham Jones, Swanley 01322 619100.

at universities throughout the country, all with the aim of wiping out meningitis through developing vaccines.

Despite great advances in the last 20 years with vaccines for meningitis C, Hib and pneumococcal meningitis, there is still no vaccine for meningitis B – the most common form of the disease in the UK.

About six families lose a loved one to the brain bug each week.

Our Search 4 a Vaccine Campaign aims to raise £7 million to fund life-saving research into eradicating all forms of meningitis. The '4' signifies the devastating fact that meningitis can kill in under four hours.

In the absence of a vaccine, we also distribute material to raise awareness of the common symptoms and the need to act quickly, which can mean the difference between life and death.

To support Search 4 a Vaccine, call Meningitis UK on 0117 373 7373 or visit [www.meningitisUK.org](http://www.meningitisUK.org).

Steve Dayman, chief executive, Meningitis UK

## Postcode Lottery a great leap forward

I am writing to you to let you know about the fabulous news that the People's Postcode Lottery has raised a massive £10 million for charities in the UK since launching three years ago.

As CEO of Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres – one of the People's Postcode Lottery's founding charity partners in Scotland and Wales and new charity partner in England – I would like to say a huge thank you to the People's Postcode Lottery for their dedication to the development of charities across the

country. Nearly £1.6 million is the astounding sum that Maggie's centres have received from the People's Postcode Lottery to date. This equates to the funding of about 50,000 visits to Maggie's centres.

Each of these people is facing the devastating consequences of cancer and is visiting the safe environment of a Maggie's centre to seek free emotional and practical support to help them to build a life beyond cancer.

This financial security awarded to us by our partnership with the People's Postcode Lottery has given Maggie's the freedom to launch new classes and courses in our centres; employ more cancer support specialists and psychologists to deal with the growing number of people using our centres, and progress plans for future centres across the UK.

The beauty of the People's Postcode Lottery is that the funds are unrestricted, so we can use it where it is really needed. I am sure each of the other charity partners will also have made crucial developments.

We've all seen billboards for the People's Postcode Lottery, but not everyone knows about the great work being done thanks to the generosity of this not-for-profit organisation.

In particularly trying financial times, we should be prouder than ever of those, such as the players of the People's Postcode Lottery, who help charities to function and to grow.

On behalf of Maggie's, I would like to say thank you for this ground-breaking leap forward for the UK's charity sector.

Laura Lee, CEO,

Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres

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## Nine months until this difficult birth

If the health secretary agrees a September implementation of his decision to reconfigure Maidstone Hospital consultant-led maternity and children's services to Pembury Hospital, there are concerns for residents of Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge.

The trust hopes this will bring 2,000-plus extra births a year to Pembury – a challenge in itself. But bigger birthing units more often have to divert for capacity reasons.

Currently, such Pembury Hospital births are likely to be diverted to the closest suitable hospital – Maidstone.

But if Maidstone maternity and children's wards are closed the nearest are Ashford, Medway, Dartford, Hastings and Eastbourne – what journeys for women in labour.

Dennis Fowle, chairman, Maidstone Action for Services in Hospital, East Farleigh

## Make a difference in the New Year

I am writing on behalf of the NSPCC in Kent to thank your readers for their support over the last 12 months.

The NSPCC relies heavily on the support of local people to provide its

services for children and their families and we appreciate the efforts people go to. I would also like to ask readers when thinking about New Year resolutions to consider helping the NSPCC make a difference to the lives of vulnerable children and young people in 2011.

Whatever skills, talent or time people have available, the NSPCC could put them to good use to help support services such as ChildLine.

This year we are making a special appeal to anyone who has secured a place in the London Marathon to consider running it in aid of the NSPCC.

We can supply running vests, sponsor forms and training hints and tips to anyone able to help us in this way. To find out more about supporting the NSPCC, call 01293 651840 or log on to [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

Rupa-Dey Amin, NSPCC

## Vaccine research depends on you

Meningitis UK would like to thank everyone who supported us throughout 2010 – a year which saw exciting advances in the fight against meningitis.

We have been amazed by people's generosity and dedication despite the stresses and strains of the credit crunch. Money raised has supported our vital research projects

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supplement inside this week's Review

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## Tweet perfection

ILLUSTRATION students from the University for the Creative Arts were enlisted to help with a new advertising campaign by Orange.

The mobile telephone giant allowed customers to post descriptions of themselves on Twitter, with 165 lucky entrants receiving a free bespoke portrait created by the Maidstone students in return.

"We looked at a variety of universities for this project and found the illustration degree at UCA Maidstone was one of the best," said Martin Rose from the design agency Poke.

"The standard of work has been fantastic and we've been really impressed with the amount of detail and effort the students have given to each and every request."

## Brazilian exhibits

AN EXHIBITION of work by the renowned sculptor Ana Maria Pacheco will open at the University of Kent this month.

Entitled *Shadows of the Wanderer*, the Brazilian talent's art will be displayed at the Canterbury campus' Studio 3 Gallery from Monday, January 17 until Tuesday, May 17.

The exhibition has been described by *Galleries Magazine* as "a major new sculptural work by perhaps the most powerful and original of significant artists practicing in this country".

It will be open weekdays between 9am-5pm.

## No holds barred

A SINGLE mum from Shepway is among thousands to have benefited from a new government-funded adult career service.

Nicola Emden, from Hawkinge, near Folkestone, used the Next Step scheme when she wanted to return to work as a barrister.

She said: "My adviser was fantastic and wrote me out an action plan, detailing the steps I needed to take. He helped me with a search of colleges and discussed which the best were for me."

Visit [nextstep.direct.gov.uk](http://nextstep.direct.gov.uk) for more information or call 0800 1954 700.

# Apprentices benefit from contractor's novel touch

A BUILDING firm's innovative approach to apprenticeships has resulted in 10 young people being given a leg-up onto the career ladder, *writes Steve Knight*.

Warings – the Portsmouth-based construction company behind the Kent Library and History Centre in Maidstone – is asking any subcontractor working on the project for more than four months to take on an apprentice.

There are five local firms that fulfil the criterion, and with Warings providing five apprentices itself the total number has risen to 10.

Managing director Philippe Jouy said: "At Warings we are deeply committed to working with the communities where we operate, and this site is a great example of that philosophy being put into practice."

"It has already received an Eco Site award highlighting its environmentally-friendly approach, and we hope it is on course to win a Considerate Constructors award as well."



LEFT TO RIGHT: Warings apprentices Oliver Hudson, Matthew Miah and Rob Jones

"Not only is this site going to be a great location for Kent's proud history, but it is also making an important contribution to its future by giving young people an all important start in their working life."

"At the same time the requirement that 30 per cent of the workforce should be local labour is giving the region's jobs market a

welcome boost at a difficult economic time."

The Kent Library and History Centre, in James Whatman Way, Maidstone, aims to house more of the county's collections under one roof.

It will contain about 14km of historic material dating as far back as AD 699, and there will also be a community history area, archive search room, digital studio, free public internet access and wi-fi, and a large space for displays and events.

Building work on the project started last February and is due for completion in 2012.

Warings is also constructing on the site a new care home for the elderly for the Housing 21 group, as well as affordable homes for the West Kent Housing Association.

Rob Jones, 19, from Gillingham, is one of the apprentices taken on for the history centre project.

"It's great to actually have a job," he said.

"I really like the sound of carpentry and that's why I chose to do it. Now I'm enjoying the work and I hope it will turn into a long-term career for me."

# Website offers students next step guidance

A WEBSITE listing thousands of courses on offer in colleges and school sixth forms has been helping children pick their next step in education.

Year 11 students can log onto [www.kentchoices4u.com](http://www.kentchoices4u.com) to find details about the academic and vocational qualifications available, and to apply to the various

centres across the county that provide them.

Letters have been sent to all eligible pupils and their parents letting them know about the site, which has been visited by more than 50,000 people since the start of the school year in September.

The year before there were 172,000 visits as well as 13,000

new accounts created and 11,000 course applications submitted.

Cllr Sarah Hohler – cabinet member for children, families and education at Kent County Council – highlighted the benefits of the scheme.

She said: "This is an important year for students who will have to make a decision about

whether they wish to go to college or a sixth form. This website will help students make that decision by providing easy access to all the information they need."

The website is run by KCC in partnership with Connexions Kent, which provides confidential advice on subjects including education, training, health and finance.



What course will you choose?

## Enrol now for 2011

Visit [www.kent.gov.uk/adulted](http://www.kent.gov.uk/adulted) or call 0845 606 5606 to enrol today!



Pull out your Review section opposite to read [JobsforKent.co.uk](http://JobsforKent.co.uk), starting on page 51





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## SUPPORT WORKERS

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To assist in the provision of complete range of social, physical and personal care to adults with learning and physical disabilities, with the aim to enhance their independence in all areas. Position part-time. Varied hours. Own transport is necessary due to location. For more information contact Sally Brooks. Tel: 01795 886220 or email: [ellenscourt@btconnect.com](mailto:ellenscourt@btconnect.com)

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Apply online now at:  
[www.representanglian.com](http://www.representanglian.com)



## Stargate

are recruiting for a  
**Deputy Nurse Manager F/T**

at the Mandalay Nursing Home - Folkestone and also a

**Registered Nurse and Carers**

at the Barham House Nursing Home - Nr Canterbury. Contact Sheralyn Kelly by email: [barhamhouse@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:barhamhouse@hotmail.co.uk)

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## PURCHASING AND STOCK CONTROL PERSON

We are currently looking to recruit a Purchasing and Stock Control Processor here at our busy factory in Ramsgate.

The successful candidate would need to have good communication and I.T skills, work accurately at all times, be able to meet deadlines and work well as part of a team.

Previous experience desirable but not essential.

Starting salary from around £14,000 dependant on experience.

Please apply to Ray Kemp, Piper Double Glazing Limited, 140 Newington Road, Ramsgate, Kent, CT12 6PP or e-mail [ray.kemp@piperwindows.co.uk](mailto:ray.kemp@piperwindows.co.uk).

Closing date for applications is Friday 14 January 2011, no agencies.

We are an Equal Opportunities Employer.



## Sherlodge Garage

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### TRAINEE SALES EXECUTIVE

We are seeking to recruit an additional Sales Executive to our existing team to further strengthen our commitment to delivering a first class service to our customers.

The successful candidate must be self-motivated and results oriented, possess the drive and determination to succeed in a competitive environment with a 'no compromise' approach to customer satisfaction.

Candidate must hold a valid driving licence.

In return we offer you the challenges, commitment to excellence and rewards you inevitably seek.

To apply for this position, please forward your current CV with a covering letter to:- **Andrew Clarke, Sherlodge Garage, 26 Hoath Lane, Wigmore, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 0SW, 01634 377444.** Closing date for applications is 12 01 2011

## COMMERCIAL MANAGER

An experienced Commercial Manager is required to head up our team of estimators working as a specialist subcontractor in the social housing refurbishment sector.

With contract values up to £6.5 million pa, candidates must be able to demonstrate expertise, flair and innovation in the preparation of Tenders, PQQ's and managing and assisting in Partnering Submissions for RSL's and Local Authorities as well as liaising closely with the commercial sales team and assisting with job cost feedback.

Based at the company's Head Office in Ramsgate, Kent, there will be a requirement for visits to sites and meetings with clients. Offered is a salary appropriate to your experience, together with contributory pension scheme.

Please apply in writing to Mr Ron Twyman Planning Manager, 140 Newington Road, Ramsgate, Kent, CT12 6PP or e-mail [ron@piperwindows.co.uk](mailto:ron@piperwindows.co.uk)



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### Night Carer

required for residential care home in Rainham NVQ preferred 2 nights per week Must be flexible For more information please contact Sue on 01634 263803



'The No.1 provider of welfare, comradeship, representation and Remembrance for the Armed Forces community'.

## Maurice House, Broadstairs, Kent

We are looking to recruit to a variety of positions in Maurice House, our 47 bedded Residential and Nursing Home, based in Broadstairs, Kent. These are exciting opportunities for you to join one of the Legion's Poppy Homes, forming a major part of our welfare work to provide care for ex-Service people. We are looking to recruit for the following positions on a fixed term basis:

### Registered General Nurse (RGN)

10.5 hours per week on a nightly rota basis. Salary: £12.23 per hour  
You will be expected to organise and take charge of all aspects of nursing and care services to optimal standards promoting person centred care. Candidates will have RN level 1 plus evidence of updated clinical practice.

### Care Assistant Positions

21 and 35 hours per week on a daily rota basis. 20 hours per week on a nightly rota basis  
Flexi positions also available. Salary: £6.18 per hour  
You will be expected to work as a team member in delivering high quality person centred care to our residents. Candidates will ideally have NVQ2 or willing to work towards the equivalent of this plus commitment to working within a care home environment.

### Cook

20 hours per week on a rota basis. Salary: £6.70 per hour  
You will be expected to provide service and provision of all meals to residents, take charge of catering services in absence of Head Chef, working with other disciplines within the home.  
Candidates will have NVQ in Cooking and Basic Food Preparation plus Food Hygiene certificate.

If you would like to apply for this role please visit our website [www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk) to download an application form to complete and email to [mauricehouse@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:mauricehouse@britishlegion.org.uk) or collect an application form from Maurice House and post or deliver to Maurice House no later than 30th January 2011.

Please note that CVs are not accepted and we are not seeking the assistance of Recruitment Agencies to help us with this vacancy.

Please note: We comply with current government legislation relating to the Default Retirement age (DRA) of 65 years and all Royal British Legion employees are retired upon reaching their 65th birthday.

Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted within two weeks of the closing date.



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All applicants would preferably have English language and basic mathematics equivalent to GCSE grade level C or higher. Candidates will require a basic knowledge of construction techniques applicable in this market sector and have the strong communication skills essential for dealing with the general public. Basic IT and administrative skills beneficial.

Some weekend work required, own transport essential. Full training provided to successful candidates. Between 30-48 hours per week.  
Trainee Sales Assistants circa £15,000 per annum, full-time Sales Assistants on target earnings of £25,000 per annum according to level.

Please send CV with self-addressed envelope and detailed information on relevant experience to:

Human Resources, Johnson's Leisure Ltd, Old Thanet Way, Chestfield, Kent CT5 3JD. Or email [sales@needextraspaces.co.uk](mailto:sales@needextraspaces.co.uk).

Unfortunately telephone enquiries cannot be processed.



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KOS Media look for highly motivated people to create and sell multi-media solutions in our market leading portfolio including newspapers, magazines and digital sales.

We believe and pride ourselves in good customer service, professional marketing solutions and excellent business relationships. We provide innovative ideas that will in return give our clients real value and response.

Looking after and growing an existing customer base along with finding new business will form the basis of the job role. You will need to be a self motivated individual with sales experience, good communicator, tenacious and hard working to succeed in this environment.

### Telephone Sales Executives (Maternity Cover)

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If you are highly driven, confident, a self motivated team player with good communication skills, who is able to work under pressure to deadlines and targets, in our fast paced and fun telesales department, then apply.

You will be office based and working with an existing client base of advertisers where customer service is paramount, but you must also be able to search out new business to develop and grow your territory revenues and opportunities.

We believe and pride ourselves in good customer service, professional marketing solutions and excellent business relationships. We provide innovative ideas that will in return give our clients real value and response. Media experience is not essential as full training will be given.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

**Please apply in writing with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to:**

Ynez Coton, Commercial Director,  
ARCHANT KOS MEDIA  
Apple Barn, Hythe Rd, Smeeth, Ashford Kent. TN25 6SS  
Or email ynez.coton@kosmedia.co.uk

### Media Sales Executives (Business to Business)

We have an opportunity for highly motivated people to create and sell multi-media solutions in our market-leading portfolio of newspapers and magazines.

We're not looking for people to just take orders; we're looking for people who can provide first class solutions for our customers.

We believe good customer service is at the heart of our success and we want to recruit people who can develop excellent business relationships and present effective and innovative ideas that will provide real value and response for our customers.

### Telephone Sales Executives x2

You will play the key role in selling advertising across our market leading portfolio of newspapers, websites and mobile products.

Candidates may possess a track record in telephone sales, combining excellent communication skills, tenacity and the ability to build relationships.

Ultimately, we need an articulate and assured sales person with a structured and positive manner.

Your might also be looking to enter media as a career within sale and this would be an excellent starting point.

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**Please apply with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to:**

Christine Davidson, Commercial Director  
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The Spencer Wing is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEOM Hospital site. We also have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

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**Qualifications**

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Evidence of continual professional development

ENB 998 Teaching and Assessing Course or equivalent (desirable)

To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact  
Liz Justice - 01843 234555 Ext: 62207

For job description and application form please contact:

Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd, The Spencer Wing  
QEOM Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG

Telephone: 01843 234556 Fax: 01843 296333

E-mail: [jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com](mailto:jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com)

The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer  
These positions are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check



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### Westlands Academies Trust



#### The Westlands School

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Following the success of the initiative to reduce the number of hours that a teacher has to spend covering for absent colleagues we require as soon as possible another

### LESSON SUPERVISOR

This post is designed to provide supervision of classes in the absence of the subject teacher or form tutor. The job is not a teaching role but will require good classroom management skills as well as a confident personality, a good presence and excellent communication skills.

Applicants should be well educated, preferably to further education level, and have experience of giving support in the classroom, preferably as a Teaching Assistant, although other qualifications and personal/work experiences will be taken into account.

Employment will start after a one-week paid in-service training course.

There will be a six-month probationary period.

8.25am - 3.20pm with 1 hour unpaid breaks, term time only plus 1 staff training day and 25 days paid holiday a year, or as relevant to years of service in a similar post.

Salary starting at £16,793 rising to £18,471 (pro-rata)

(equal to £12,516 - depending on experience)

Recruitment packs are available from the school or online.

Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form.

Closing date: Monday 24th January 2011

The Westlands School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461

Email: swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk

Headteacher: J Whitcombe MA

Westlands Academies Trust Company No 7344732



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£4,934 - 15 hours per week (weekends only) - Term time only plus 2 weeks\*

Also First-Aid Team Support Worker positions available.

As part of the childcare team, these roles involve providing care and support to students from Classrooms to Childcare Teams afternoons and evenings during the week and late or early shifts each weekend.

### CHILDCARE SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

£10,079 plus 10% per annum - 36.5 hours per week (including weekends) - Term time only plus 2 weeks\*

As part of the childcare team, these roles involve providing care and support to students mornings, evenings and weekends.

\*For these roles there will also be up to a maximum of two weeks for the school's respite care provision if required, for which extra payment would be paid.

For all posts we look for candidates who are mature, practical, flexible and responsible with a patient and caring attitude to deal sensitively with vulnerable children.

We are committed to sustainability and preserving the environment and therefore encourage applications by email, so for an application form and information pack please email [personnel@bradstow.wandsworthsch.uk](mailto:personnel@bradstow.wandsworthsch.uk) Or you may call 01843 603727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine).

Please note that CV's will not be considered.

The closing date for all applications is 12 noon Friday 21st January 2011.

[www.bradstow.wandsworthsch.uk](http://www.bradstow.wandsworthsch.uk)

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**Ashford**  
Salary £neg depending on skills and experience  
Our client Brett Concrete, specialists in the supply of ready-mixed concrete and floor screed, is currently seeking a Plant Supervisor for their Ashford site. Details are as follows: THE ROLE Seeking a self motivated, reliable individual who is capable of working on their own initiative. You will also be responsible for ensuring safety, health and environment standards are maintained to Brett requirements. The role involves producing concrete in line with customer expectations, whilst optimising transport utilisation. Use of a computer operated concrete batching plant. Liaising with customers face to face and via the telephone. House keeping of all the plant and equipment. THE REQUIREMENTS Experience in the ready-mix concrete industry is desirable - preferably with experience of batching operations, although training can be given. Good communication and interpersonal skills are essential, with an understanding for customer requirements. Basic PC skills are required. Brett Group operates an Equal Opportunities Policy. Salary: £neg depending on skills and experience. To apply please email your CV with covering letter quoting reference PSA11 to: tina.moon@brett.co.uk or telephone 01622 793833 for an application form. Closing date for applications is Friday 28th January 2011.  
**To apply/more information:**  
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jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: PSA11

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#### Aglian Home Improvements

**Kent**  
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Ross Consultancy  
lynn@rosscon.co.uk  
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### Education, Teacher, School

#### PAT and Asset Control Assistant

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Salary £7,291 p.a.  
**To apply/more information:**  
Marlowe Academy  
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#### OFFICE & RECORDS SUPERVISOR

**Canterbury**  
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#### SENIOR HR OFFICER

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Salary £34,817 PA  
**To apply/more information:**  
Thanet College  
personnel@thanet.ac.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

### Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

#### PAT and Asset Control Assistant

**Canterbury**  
Salary £7,291 p.a.  
**To apply/more information:**  
Marlowe Academy  
amanda.mulvihill@marloweacademy.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Part Time Secretary to Operations Director

**Mid Kent**  
Salary c£11,500  
Working 8.00 - 12.00 Monday to Friday with the flexibility to cover 5 weeks a year full time. This opening is a varied and busy appointment requiring excellent secretarial and administration skills. Tasks include diary handling, travel and accommodation booking, conference and event organisation as well as financial and general administration. Our client is looking for a start date in January 2011.  
**To apply/more information:**  
Interpersonnel  
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: JFK1714

#### Aglian Home Improvements

**Kent**  
Salary £40 OTE  
**To apply/more information:**  
Ross Consultancy  
lynn@rosscon.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

### HR, Recruitment

#### SENIOR HR OFFICER

**Broadstairs**  
Salary £34,817 PA

**To apply/more information:**  
Thanet College  
personnel@thanet.ac.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

### Industrial, Warehouse, Factory

#### PURCHASING AND STOCK CONTROL PERSON

**Ramsgate**  
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PURCHASING AND STOCK CONTROL PERSONWe are currently looking to recruit a Purchasing and Stock Control Processor here at our busy factory in Ramsgate. The successful candidate would need to have good communication and IT skills, work accurately at all times, be able to meet deadlines and work well as part of a team. Previous experience desirable but not essential. Starting salary from around £14,000 dependant on experience. Please apply to Ray Kemp, Piper Double Glazing Limited, 140 Newington Road, Ramsgate, Kent, CT12 6PPor e-mail ray.kemp@piperwindows.co.uk. Closing date for applications is Friday 14 January 2011, no agencies. We are an Equal Opportunities Employer.  
**To apply/more information:**  
Interpersonnel  
piper@piperwindows.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

### Information Tech, Internet, Telecoms

#### PAT and Asset Control Assistant

**Canterbury**  
Salary £7,291 p.a.  
**To apply/more information:**  
Marlowe Academy  
amanda.mulvihill@marloweacademy.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

### Insurance, Banking, Finance

#### Jobs

**All over Kent**  
Salary £7.41 to £15.37 p.h.  
**To apply/more information:**  
Census  
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

### Leisure, Tourism, Travel

#### New Careers in Health and Wellness

**Maidstone**  
Salary £1000.00+ per mth  
**To apply/more information:**  
Arriba  
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Trainee Sales Assistants

**Sevenoaks**  
Salary Circa £15,000 PA  
**To apply/more information:**  
Johnsons Leisure Ltd  
sales@needextraspaces.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Sales Assistants

**Maidstone**  
Salary £25,000 PA  
**To apply/more information:**  
Johnsons Leisure Ltd  
sales@needextraspaces.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Trainee Sales Assistants

**Maidstone**  
Salary circa £15,000 per annum  
**To apply/more information:**  
Johnsons Leisure Ltd  
sales@needextraspaces.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Sales Assistants

**Whitstable**  
Salary £25,000 PA  
**To apply/more information:**  
Johnsons Leisure Ltd  
sales@needextraspaces.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Trainee Sales Assistants

**Whitstable**  
Salary circa £15,000 per annum  
**To apply/more information:**  
Johnsons Leisure Ltd  
sales@needextraspaces.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Sales Assistants

**Sevenoaks**  
Salary £25,000 per annum  
**To apply/more information:**  
Johnsons Leisure Ltd  
sales@needextraspaces.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Recreation Assistant

**Larkfield**  
Salary c£14,500  
Suit candidates with ambition to progress in the Leisure Industry. Working on a shift basis to include evenings and weekends, customer focused with good communication skills and knowledge/experience in a particular sport within the leisure/service industry. NPLQ or equivalent recognised leisure guard qualification or previous work experience in a sporting environment. This post is subject to a satisfactory CRB check. Close Date 17 January 2011.  
**To apply/more information:**  
Interpersonnel  
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: 1716

### Management, Senior Positions

#### Senior Support Worker

**Sheerness**  
Salary negotiable  
**To apply/more information:**  
Alma Lodge  
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Business Manager

**Ashford**  
Salary OTE:£45,000  
A rare and exciting opportunity... Invicta Motors, Ashford are part of the Cambria Automotives Group, a U.K multi franchised organisation. We are a well established, high volume successful Ford Dealership positioned in one of the fastest growing towns in England, offering the perfect opportunity for the business to continue its growth. We have a rare and exciting opportunity to add to our success. We are looking for a proactive, highly motivated and self disciplined individual. To succeed in this role you should possess the following: • Be FSA Compliant and current legislation • Have an excellent standard of verbal and written communication • Be organised and customer focused • To be able to maximise finance, insurance and other incremental sales • Previous Business Manager experience preferred with a proven track record in return, we offer the opportunity to sell probably the most exciting range of vehicles available in 2010. We will also provide you with the use of a company vehicle. Basic Salary £16,500 OTE:£45,000 If your skills match those required, we are keen to hear from you. Call for a confidential discussion or write to: Parm Randhawa General Sales Manager/Invicta Motors The Parade/Orbital Park/Ashford/Kent TN24 0HTTel: (01233) 504400 Fax: (01233) 50425 Email: Parminderrandhawa@invictamotors.com Website: [www.invictamotors.com](http://www.invictamotors.com)  
**To apply/more information:**  
Invicta Motors (Ashford)  
parm.randhawa@summitautogroup.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Senior Support Worker

**Sheerness**  
Salary negotiable  
**To apply/more information:**  
Alma Lodge  
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Massage Therapist

**Canterbury**  
Salary 9-18 k per annum + bonuses  
**To apply/more information:**  
Canterbury Health Practice  
monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: masthe 001

#### Registered General Nurse

**Broadstairs**  
Salary £12.23 per hour  
**To apply/more information:**  
The Royal British Legion  
mauricehouse@britishlegion.org.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Care Assistant Positions

**Broadstairs**  
Salary £6.18 per hour  
**To apply/more information:**  
The Royal British Legion  
mauricehouse@britishlegion.org.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

commercial sales team and assisting with job cost feedback. Based at the company's Head Office in Ramsgate, Kent, there will be a requirement for visits to sites and meetings with clients. Offered is a salary appropriate to your experience, together with contributory pension scheme. Please apply in writing to Mr Ron Twyman Planning Manager, 140 Newington Road, Ramsgate, Kent, CT12 6PP or e-mail ron@piperwindows.co.uk  
**To apply/more information:**  
Piper Windows  
piper@piperwindows.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### SENIOR HR OFFICER

**Broadstairs**  
Salary £34,817 PA  
**To apply/more information:**  
Thanet College  
personnel@thanet.ac.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Deputy Nurse Manager

**Folkestone**  
Salary Negotiable  
**To apply/more information:**  
Barham House  
barhamhouse@hotmail.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

### Motor Trade, Driver

#### Business Manager

**Ashford**  
Salary OTE:£45,000  
[www.invictamotors.com](http://www.invictamotors.com)  
**To apply/more information:**  
Invicta Motors (Ashford)  
parm.randhawa@summitautogroup.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### TRAINEE SALES EXECUTIVE

**Gillingham**  
Salary Negotiable  
**To apply/more information:**  
Sherldog Garage  
john.devine@sherldoggarage.skoda.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

### Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

#### RGN (Day and Night shifts)

**Gillingham**  
Salary negotiable  
Prestigious Naval Care Home in Gillingham Requires RGN (Day and Night shifts) Applicants should be able to provide a high standard of nursing care and work as part of a team. For more information and application form contact: PEMBROKE HOUSE 11 Oxford Road Gillingham Kent ME7 4BS Tel: 01634 852431.  
**To apply/more information:**  
Pembroke House  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Senior Support Worker

**Sheerness**  
Salary negotiable  
**To apply/more information:**  
Alma Lodge  
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Massage Therapist

**Canterbury**  
Salary 9-18 k per annum + bonuses  
**To apply/more information:**  
Canterbury Health Practice  
monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: masthe 001

#### Registered General Nurse

**Broadstairs**  
Salary £12.23 per hour  
**To apply/more information:**  
The Royal British Legion  
mauricehouse@britishlegion.org.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Care Assistant Positions

**Broadstairs**  
Salary £6.18 per hour  
**To apply/more information:**  
The Royal British Legion  
mauricehouse@britishlegion.org.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Cook

**Broadstairs**  
Salary £6.70 per hour  
**To apply/more information:**  
The Royal British Legion  
mauricehouse@britishlegion.org.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Deputy Nurse Manager

**Folkestone**  
Salary Negotiable  
**To apply/more information:**  
Barham House  
barhamhouse@hotmail.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKERS

**Tonbridge**  
Salary £8.25 to £10.00 per hour  
**To apply/more information:**  
TerraBlu Ltd  
emma.foord@terrablu.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

### Other

#### Part Time Secretary to Operations Director

**Mid Kent**  
Salary c£11,500  
**To apply/more information:**  
Interpersonnel  
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: JFK1714

### Public Sector, Social Services

#### Jobs

**All over Kent**  
Salary £7.41 to £15.37 p.h.  
Census Jobs from £7.41 to £15.37 p.h. (depending on role/location). Full and part time roles available in your area. Be part of an exciting project and apply now at [www.censusjobs.co.uk](http://www.censusjobs.co.uk)  
**To apply/more information:**  
Census  
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Registered General Nurse

**Broadstairs**  
Salary £12.23 per hour  
**To apply/more information:**  
The Royal British Legion  
mauricehouse@britishlegion.org.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Business Manager

**Ashford**  
Salary OTE:£45,000  
**To apply/more information:**  
Invicta Motors (Ashford)  
parm.randhawa@summitautogroup.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Care Assistant Positions

**Broadstairs**  
Salary £6.18 per hour  
**To apply/more information:**  
The Royal British Legion  
mauricehouse@britishlegion.org.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Cook

**Broadstairs**  
Salary £6.70 per hour  
**To apply/more information:**  
The Royal British Legion  
mauricehouse@britishlegion.org.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKERS

**Tonbridge**  
Salary £8.25 to £10.00 per hour  
**To apply/more information:**  
TerraBlu Ltd  
emma.foord@terrablu.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Recreation Assistant

**Larkfield**  
Salary c£14,500  
**To apply/more information:**  
Interpersonnel  
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: 1716

#### Housing Needs Officer

**West Malling**  
Salary c£22,000  
**To apply/more information:**  
Interpersonnel  
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: 1717

### Retail, Wholesale, Sales

#### EARN AN INCREASING MONTHLY INCOME...

**Kent**  
Salary TBC  
**To apply/more information:**  
Utility Warehouse  
alanbarrett@telecomplus.org.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: KOS

#### Business Manager

**Ashford**  
Salary OTE:£45,000  
**To apply/more information:**  
Invicta Motors (Ashford)  
parm.randhawa@summitautogroup.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### TRAINEE SALES EXECUTIVE

**Gillingham**  
Salary Negotiable  
**To apply/more information:**  
Sherldog Garage  
john.devine@sherldoggarage.skoda.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### COMMERCIAL MANAGER

**Ramsgate**  
Salary Negotiable  
**To apply/more information:**  
Piper Windows  
piper@piperwindows.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### PURCHASING AND STOCK CONTROL PERSON

**Ramsgate**  
Salary £14,000 PA  
**To apply/more information:**  
Piper Windows  
piper@piperwindows.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Aglian Home Improvements

**Kent**  
Salary £40 OTE  
**To apply/more information:**  
Ross Consultancy  
lynn@rosscon.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Trainee Sales Assistants

**Sevenoaks**  
Salary Circa £15,000 PA  
**To apply/more information:**  
Johnsons Leisure Ltd  
sales@needextraspaces.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Sales Assistants

**Maidstone**  
Salary £25,000 PA  
**To apply/more information:**  
Johnsons Leisure Ltd  
sales@needextraspaces.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Trainee Sales Assistants

**Maidstone**  
Salary circa £15,000 per annum  
**To apply/more information:**  
Johnsons Leisure Ltd  
sales@needextraspaces.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### KENT COUNTY COUNCIL THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

#### APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Hole Park, Rolvenden, Cranbrook**  
Applicant: **Edward Barham**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey  
Head of Registration  
1st Floor  
Invicta House,  
Maidstone ME14 1XX



### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council are seeking comments on our draft sex establishment licensing policy, which will come into effect on 1 April 2011.

This policy sets out our approach to sex establishment licensing in Tunbridge Wells, gives clear guidance to license holders, applicants and people who may comment on applications. You can view a copy of the draft policy:

In person by visiting the Council's Tunbridge Wells Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB between the hours of 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (except Thursday 9am to 6.30pm) or 10am and 4pm on Saturday.

On line at [www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk](http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk)

Or if you would like us to send you a paper copy of the draft policy please email your request to [licensing@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@tunbridgewells.gov.uk) or telephone the number below.

Any such comments must be made in writing and should be received by the Licensing Office before 4.30pm on 21 January 2011.

At the conclusion of the consultation exercise all responses received will be reported to a meeting of the Council's Licensing Committee.

A copy of the report will be available prior to the meeting on the website.

Senior Licensing Officer, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS - Tel: 01892 526121.







### Highways – District of Dover

#### **WESTCOURT ROAD & DUMBRILL HILL, WOOTTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is given that because of A2 junction modification works, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Westcourt Road & Dumbrell Hill, Wootton, on or after 11 January 2011 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

**Westcourt Road, Wootton** will be closed at the junction with A2 Dover Road for a distance of approximately 50 metres, from 11 January 2011 for up to 1 week.

The alternative route is via A2 Dover Road, Westcourt Lane and Westcourt Road.

**Dumbrell Hill, Wootton** will be closed at the junction with A2 Dover Road for a distance of approximately 50 metres, from 18 January 2011 for up to 1 week.

The alternative route is via A2 Dover Road and Geddinge Lane.

### Highways - District of Sevenoaks

#### **VARIOUS ROADS, CHEVENING - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Back Lane, Chevening from outside Mackerels Plain to its junction with Cold Arbor Road.

The Order will become effective on 10th January 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 4 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: B2042 Cold Arbor Road, B2042 Wheatheaf Hill and Nightingale Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway patching.

### Highways - District of Shepway

#### **SUSSEX ROAD & DEVON ROAD, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is given that because of gas mains replacement, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Sussex Road and Devon Road, Folkestone, on or after 10 January 2011 for up to 11 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below.

**SUSSEX ROAD** will be closed from 10 January 2011 for up to 6 weeks.

The alternative routes are via Foord Road North, Devon Road and Bradstone Avenue or via Bradstone Avenue, Black Bull Road and Foord Road North

**DEVON ROAD** will be closed from 21 February 2011 for up to 5 weeks

The alternative route is via Foord Road North, Sussex Road and Bradstone Avenue

The timings and dates of the phases are approximate guidelines, and may vary subject to weather and ground conditions.

#### **THE OLD HIGH STREET, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is given that because of gas mains replacement, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on The Old High Street, Folkestone, on or after 10 January 2011 for up to 9 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Bayle Street and Tontine Street.

There is no alternative route. Every effort will be made to maintain access for businesses whenever it is safe to do so.

### Highways – District of Swale

#### **CLOCK HOUSE LEVEL CROSSING, BOUGHTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is given that because of a level crossing inspection and track maintenance, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Clock House Level Crossing, Boughton, on or after 30 January 2011 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

Clockhouse Lane, Boughton will be closed at the Level Crossing. The alternative route is via Clockhouse Lane, Selling Road and Brenley Lane.

The planned closure times are from 1.50 am on 30 January 2011 until 4.10 am on 31 January 2011.

This Order remains in force for up to 18 months and can be re-implemented if required for works of a similar nature.

#### **MILL WAY, SITTINGBOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is given that because of works to remove a high level steel gantry, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mill Way, Sittingbourne, on or after 9 January 2011 for up to 1 night or until the works have been completed.

It is planned the road will be closed overnight between the hours of 10.30 pm and 5.00 am.

The road will be closed the junctions with Milton Road and St Paul's Street.

The alternative route is via Eurolink Way, Crown Quay Lane, St Michael's Road, (northbound via Dover Street, West Street), A2 London Road, Key Street, Sheppey Way, B2006 Staplehurst Road and B2005 St Paul's Street.

### Highways – District of Thanet

#### **VARIOUS ROADS, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is given that because of gas mains replacement, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Various Roads, Margate, on or after 10 January 2011 for a total of up to 18 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The roads affected, planned dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below.

**Dane Road, Margate** will be closed between the junctions with Bath Road and Dane Hill for up to 2 weeks from the 10 January 2011. This is for trial holes to establish the method of work for the installation of a gas main.

The alternative routes are via Addington Street, Addington Road and Victoria Road or via King Street, Hawley Street, Trinity Square, Northdown Road, Wilderness Hill and Dane Road.

If the gas main can be installed using an 'open cut' method, Dane Road will then remain closed for up to a further 16 weeks from 24 January 2010 whilst the works are carried out.

Works commence at the junction with Bath Road, working westwards.

**Bath Road, Margate** will be closed at the junction with Dane Road from 10 January 2011 for up to 4 weeks.

The alternative route for through traffic is via Northdown Road, Wilderness Hill and Dane Road

The one-way traffic order will be suspended from Clifton Street southwards, to allow access up to the point of closure.

If it is not possible to install the gas main using the 'open cut' method, Dane Road will then be re-opened from 24 January 2011, and works would switch to King Street.

**King Street, Margate** would then be closed from 24 January 2011, for up to 10 weeks.

King Street will be closed between the junctions with Hawley Street and Dane Hill.

The alternative route is Addington Street, Union Crescent and Hawley Street.

The works for the section of Dane Road between Bath Road and Dane Hill would then be deferred until the summer when the demand for gas is lower.

This will be notified separately under a revised Traffic Order.

### Highways - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

#### **(GILLETTS LANE, EAST MALLING) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Gilletts Lane either side of number 16 on or after Monday 10th January 2011 for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Chapel Street and The Rocks Road.

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to provide a connection to a property. Should you require any further information for these works, the contact is Amy Colvin on 01689 881315.

KATHERINE KERSWELL, Group Managing Director, Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2XQ

**For further information, please contact  
Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800  
(local rate) or visit [www.kent.gov.uk/highways](http://www.kent.gov.uk/highways)**



### Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

- 10/03965/HOUSE Tumbledown Cottage Chapel Lane, Benenden**  
- Extension of Time - Two-storey extension to rear and dormer window to south elevation (planning permission TW/07/04306/FUL refers) (CA)
- 10/04024/HOUSE Eaton Cottage Goddards Green Road, Benenden**  
- Extension of Time: Demolition of rear conservatory and flue. Provision of new rear conservatory and single storey side extension (TW/07/03844/FUL refers) (LB)
- 10/04026/LBC Eaton Cottage Goddards Green Road, Benenden**  
- Extension of Time: Listed Building Consent - Demolition of rear conservatory and flue. Provision of new conservatory and single storey side extension (TW/07/03850/LBC refers) (LB)
- 10/03913/FUL Apartment 9 Bidborough Court, Bidborough**  
- Retrospective - Installation of a velux window (LB)
- 10/03914/LBC Apartment 9 Bidborough Court, Bidborough**  
- Listed Building Consent - Installation of a velux window (LB)
- 10/04079/HOUSE Matfield House The Green, Brenchley**  
- Alterations to front railings (CA) (LB)
- 10/04084/LBC Matfield House The Green, Brenchley**  
- Listed Building Consent: Alterations to front railings (LB)
- 10/04052/HOUSE Crockhurst Oast Crockhurst Street, Capel**  
- Single storey side extension and alterations (LB)
- 10/03999/LBC Branden Biddenden Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**  
- Listed Building Consent - Internal alterations to kitchen/annexe sitting room, entrance lobby and fireplace (LB)
- 10/04011/HOUSE Hartridge Manor Farm Paley Lane, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**  
- Proposed revised scheme to approved planning consent 09/03525/HOUSE to construct a single storey rear extension (LB)
- 10/04013/HOUSE Hartridge Manor Farm Paley Lane, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**  
- Proposed revised scheme to approved planning consent TW09/03525/HOUSE to construct a single storey rear extension so to retain historical features of the Victorian extension (LB)
- 10/04015/LBC Hartridge Manor Farm Paley Lane, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**  
- Listed Building Consent: Proposed revised scheme to approved consent 09/03526/LBC to construct a single storey rear extension (LB)
- 10/04027/LBC Hartridge Manor Farm Paley Lane, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**  
- Listed Building Consent - Proposed revised scheme to approved planning consent TW09/03526/LBC to construct a single storey rear extension so to retain historical features of the Victorian extension (LB)
- 10/04041/OUTMJ Kent And Sussex Hospital Mount Ephraim, Culverden**  
- Part Outline (means of access not reserved) - Construction of between 332 and 392 Class C3 dwelling-houses, children's play area, public open space, new access road and associated parking; Part Detailed - 635 square metre GIA Class A1 retail/A3 restaurant and cafe floorspace (644 square metres GEA), 3202 square metre GIA Class B1 office floorspace (3,468 square metre GEA), 8 No. Class C3 dwelling-houses, public open space, new access road and associated parking (CA) (LB) (MAJOR)
- 10/04042/CAC Kent And Sussex Hospital Mount Ephraim, Culverden**  
- Conservation Area Consent - Demolition of Kent and Sussex Hospital (CA)
- 10/03982/HOUSE Grove Place North Road, Goudhurst**  
- Proposed extension to dwelling, removal of tanks, shed and relocation including green house; Amendment/new opening into new from existing (LB)
- 10/03989/LBC Grove Place North Road, Goudhurst**  
- Proposed extension to dwelling, removal of tanks, shed and relocation including greenhouse; Amendment/new opening into new from existing (LB)
- 10/04036/LBC Little Combourn Farmhouse Jarvis Lane, Goudhurst**  
- Listed Building Consent: Link extension to converted outbuilding to provide permanent cover for swimming pool (LB)
- 10/03922/HOUSE 22 Brewer Street Lamberhurst, Lamberhurst**  
- Single storey extension (CA)
- 10/03974/LBC Rope House The Broadway, Lamberhurst**  
- Listed Building Consent - Flood protection including barriers and covers (LB)
- 10/04093/LBC Mill Cottage High Street, Lamberhurst**  
- Listed Building Consent: Flood protection door and air brick barriers, new sump and sump pumps in cellars (LB)
- 10/04094/LBC 1 Coggers Cottages The Broadway, Lamberhurst**  
- Listed Building Consent: Flood protection (LB)
- 10/04037/FUL The Cumberland 3 Cumberland Walk, Pantiles & St Marks**  
- Retrospective retention of electricity generator and enclosure for a temporary 6 month period (CA) (LB)
- 10/04040/TELN5 Pavement Outside Jerningham House Mount Sion, Pantiles & St Marks**  
- Telecommunications Notification: Installation of green replacement cabinet shell (CA)
- 10/04064/HOUSE 25 Norfolk Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**  
- Single storey rear extension (CA)
- 10/04071/FULMJ Vale Royal Methodist Church London Road, Pantiles & St Marks**  
- Demolition of existing building and construction of part two/four/five storey building to accommodate replacement church, ten one-bed and four two-bed flats, and associated car parking facilities (MAJOR) (CA)
- 10/04072/CAC Vale Royal Methodist Church London Road, Pantiles & St Marks**  
- Conservation Area Consent: Demolition of existing building (CA)
- 10/04039/FUL Mulberry Lodge 16 Calverley Park Gardens, Park**  
- Part Retrospective: Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling together with erection of 2 metre high boundary fence and landscaping (New dwelling to match development approved under TW/10/02588) (CA)
- 10/04046/CAC Mulberry Lodge 16 Calverley Park Gardens, Park**  
- Conservation Area Consent - Part Retrospective: Demolition of existing dwelling (CA)
- 10/04053/HOUSE Blackhurst Park Halls Hole Road, Park**  
- Extension to existing terrace of 2 dwellings - single storey rear extension and first floor extension at east end (Revised application to 10/03244/HOUSE) (CA) (LB)
- 10/04059/LBC Blackhurst Park Halls Hole Road, Park**  
- Listed Building Consent: Extension to existing terrace of 2 dwellings - single storey rear extension and first floor extension at east end (Revised application to 10/03249/LBC) (LB)
- 10/04102/HOUSE 5 Lower Green Road Pembury, Pembury**  
- Removal of existing side conservatory, and erection of single storey extension to side and glazed addition to rear (CA) (LB)
- 10/04105/LBC 5 Lower Green Road Pembury, Pembury**  
- Listed building consent - Removal of existing side conservatory, and erection of single storey extension to side and glazed addition to rear (LB)
- 10/04068/TELN5 Pavement Outside Greenside London Road, Southborough And High Brooms**  
- Telecommunications Notification: Installation of green replacement cabinet shell (CA)
- 10/03866/LBC The Old Farm House Bullingstone Lane, Speldhurst**  
- Listed Building Consent: Installation of 21 PV solar panels to garage roof, works already carried out (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website ([www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk](http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk)), at The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to [planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk) or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe  
Head of Planning Services  
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## Turn onto electric avenue

By **STEVE LOADER**

DESPITE the misgivings of many, electric cars are poised to make a consumer breakthrough in 2011.

It has taken just a year for the type to switch from being viewed as a rank outsider in the race for greener motoring, to being tipped as the potential winner.

And that is despite huge upfront pricing for now that even a £5,000-a-time government grant barely dents – most electric models will be way over £20,000.

Once bought though, tax and charging costs – working at around 2p/mile – will be a pittance against the tax, fuel and servicing of a conventional car.

The point is not lost on consumers, according to a survey by TheGreenCarWebsite, which asked “Which car type do you think will typically cost you the least to run over a lifetime?”.

It produced the results in percentage terms: electric – 29, diesel – 27, hybrid – 20, LPG – 16, and petrol – eight.

This caught market watchers and valuation guides by surprise and could not be better timed either with so many electric



cars making their debut in this new year.

Look more closely though and the choice is not so great; the Mitsubishi MIEV, Citroën C-Zero (left) and Peugeot Ion (centre) arrive later this month and are all derived from the MIEV, created in turn from the Japanese marque's original five-door iCar.

The Smart ForTwo Electric (main picture) is also due this month, offering an even more eco-friendly take on the well-established two-seat city car, while Nissan's all-new Leaf (right) arrives in March.

The latter may be utterly conventional in looks, but that will be its market strength in convincing more cautious early adopters.

Sometime in 2012, General Motors also enters the sector with two less conventional electric models, the Vauxhall Ampera



and Chevrolet Volt – no prizes awarded for the cheesy puns. These are technically hybrids, yet qualify for the Government's electric grant, because the tiny onboard petrol engine is used only to recharge the car's batteries and extend its range rather than driving the wheels directly.

More of a grey area, but also likely to get the grant aid is Toyota's plug-in version of the current Prius, due next year too, which uses superior batteries and the plug-in function to extend the electric range before the petrol engine has to lend a hand.

Before we get too carried away by massive savings on offer though, note that government grants will be limited and many early adopters may be stricken by what is set to be the next most discussed dinner



party ailment/syndrome – range anxiety, ie, how far does your electric car really go before the electric whine goes mute on you?

Mitsubishi reckons its little MIEV can notch 100 miles, for instance, but we all know from our mobile phones that official battery estimates can vary enormously from actual ones.

Two big unanswered questions remain.

Firstly, is an electric car really green when a conventional power station is belching emissions somewhere off in the distance in order to keep the car charged?

Secondly, government coffers are swelled hugely by taxes from petrol and diesel. What happens when this lucrative revenue source starts to be clobbered by people switching to electric?



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## MODUS

	WAS	NOW	LOC
2005 55 MODUS 1.4 DYNAMIQUE 15 ALLOYS CD ELECTRIC PACK SUNROOF 3800 METALLIC SILVER	£4,995	£4,495	C
2007 07 MODUS 1.4 EXPRESSION 15 TRANS AIR CON FRONT FOG LIGHTS 31986 METALLIC BLACK	£5,795	£5,495	C
2008 08 MODUS 1.4 16V DYNAMIQUE 15 ALLOYS CD A/C ELEC PACK 13496 MILES MERCURY	£6,395	£5,795	A
2007 57 MODUS 1.2 EXPRESSION A/C CD CLOAKING ELEC PACK 19558 MILES METALLIC MERCURY	£5,995	£5,795	C
2008 08 GRAND MODUS 1.5DCI DYNAMIQUE AIRCON ALLOYS CLOAKING 31879 MILES METALLIC BLACK	£7,995	£7,495	C
2009 59 GRAND MODUS 1.2TCE DYNAMIQUE ALLOY AIRCON FOLDING MIRRORS 6564 MILES METALLIC STONE	£13,705	£8,495	M

## MEGANE

	WAS	NOW	LOC
2007 07 MEGANE 1.6 VVT DYNAMIQUE AUTO 16 ALLOYS CD A/C SUNROOF ELEC PACK 17322 MILES EXTREME BLUE	£5,995	£5,795	A
2008 56 MEGANE S/TOURER 1.9 DCI 130 DYN 16 ALLOYS CD A/C ELEC PACK 34482 MILES EQUIPE GREY	£6,495	£5,995	A
2007 57 MEGANE 1.6 VVT PRIVILEGE 5DR CLIMATE PART LEATHER S/ROOF ALLOYS 33300 MILES MET EXTREME BLUE	£6,495	£5,995	M
2007 07 MEGANE SP/17R 1.6 DYNAMIQUE AUTO ALLOYS AIRCON CD PLAYER CLOAKING 33889 MILES METALLIC GREY	£6,995	£6,495	C
2008 58 MEGANE SDR 1.6VVT DYNAMIQUE ALLOYS AIRCON CLOAKING C/D PLAYER 7846 MILES MET PEARL BLACK	£7,795	£7,495	M
2009 59 NEW MEGANE 1.6 VVT i-MUSIC ALLOYS AIR CON CLOAKING BLUETOOTH 4987 MILES METALLIC RED	£10,995	£9,995	C
2009 09 NEW MEGANV SDR 1.6VVT 110BHP PRIN ALLOYS CLIMATE PAN ROOF KEYLESS ENTRY 8300 MILES MERCURY SILVER	£11,295	£10,995	M
2008 08 MEGANE RENS/PT 225 BLACK ALLOYS BLACK LEATHER CLIMATE 19300 MILES DEEP BLACK	£11,395	£11,295	M
2010 10 NEW MEGANE SDR 1.6VVT DYNAMIQUE ALLOYS AIRCON KEYLESS CD PLAYER 10 MILES MET EXTREME BLUE	£17,960	£11,995	M
2010 10 MEGANE 1.5DCI 108BHP i-MUSIC 16 ALLOYS CRUISE CONTROL CD PLAYER 12882 MILES METALLIC STONE	£14,495	£13,995	C
2009 59 NEW MEGANE S/TOURER 1.5DCI DYN TOM 17 ALLOYS SAT NAV CD CLOAKING KEYLESS MILES METALLIC SILVER	£16,995	£15,995	C
2010 10 NEW MEGANE COUPE 2.0 DCI 160 GT 18 ALLOYS 12 LEATHER CD CLIMATE 10500 MILES MALTA BLUE	£24,840	£17,995	M
2009 59 NEW MEGANE COUPE RS 250 19 ALLOYS GLASS ROOF FULL GREY LEATHER 12231 MILES MET OYSTER	£20,995	£20,795	M

## SCENIC

	WAS	NOW	LOC
2007 07 SCENIC 1.6VVT DYNAMIQUE 16 ALLOYS CD A/C ELEC PACK 17330 MILES ICE BLUE	£6,395	£5,995	A
2007 57 SCENIC 1.8VVT DYNAMIQUE A/C CD 16 ALLOYS CRUISE CONTRL 12903 MILES QUARTZ	£6,895	£6,495	A
2007 07 SCENIC 1.6VVT DYNAMIQUE 16 ALLOYS CD A/C ELEC PACK 20857 MILES METALLIC GREY	£6,895	£6,495	A
2007 57 SCENIC 1.8 VVT DYNAMIQUE 16 ALLOYS CD A/C ELEC PACK 11150 MILES ICE BLUE	£6,895	£6,895	A
2007 07 GRAND SCENIC 2.0 DYNAMIQUE AUTO 2 SEATS A/C 16 ALLOYS CD ELEC PACK 21365 MILES ICE BLUE	£7,695	£6,995	A
2007 57 SCENIC 1.6VVT DYNAMIQUE 16 ALLOYS CD A/C ELEC PACK 22231 MILES METALLIC QUARTZ	£7,295	£6,995	C
2009 59 NEW GRAND SCENIC 1.6 VVT 108 EXPRESSION AIR CON ELEC PACK 7 SEATS ESP 6262 MILES IN BLUE MET	£12,995	£12,495	C
2009 59 NEW SCENIC SDR 1.6 VVT EXPRESSION AIR CON CD PLAYER CENTRAL LOCKING 16,729 MILES METALLIC OPAL BLUE	£16,520	£9,995	M
2010 10 SCENIC 1.4TCE 130BHP i-MUSIC 16 ALLOYS CD A/C BLUETOOTH 3342 MILES METALLIC BLACK	£14,995	£13,995	C

## LAGUNA

	WAS	NOW	LOC
2008 57 LAGUNA 2.0 DCI INITIALE AUTO 5DR SAT NAV GREY LEATHER 16 ALLOYS CD 16500 MILES MERCURY	£12,895	£11,795	A
2009 59 LAGUNA COUPE 2.0 DCI 190 17 ALLOYS SAT NAV CD ELEC PACK 8908 MILES OYSTER GREY	£14,995	£14,795	A
2009 59 LAGUNA COUPE GT 180 DCI BOSE SOUND SYSTEM 3D NAV BEIGE LEATHER 10498 MILES IN BLACK	£21,995	£19,995	C

## ESPACE

	WAS	NOW	LOC
2007 07 ESPACE 100 150 BHP DYNAMIQUE ALLOYS CD CLIMATE PAN ROOF 43229 MILES MET ECLIPSE	£10,995	£10,495	C

## CABRIOLET

	WAS	NOW	LOC
2007 56 MEGANE CC 1.6 VVT DYNAMIQUE AIR CON CD 16 ALLOYS ELEC PACK 16181 MILES MET GUNMETAL	£7,495	£6,995	C
2008 08 MEGANE CC 1.6 VVT DYNAMIQUE AIR CON 16 ALLOYS CLOAKING 28253 MILES MET QUARTZ	£8,995	£8,495	M

## OTHER MAKES

	WAS	NOW	LOC
2006 08 CITROEN C4 CACHET SDR 17 ALLOYS CD A/C GLASS ROOF 28880 MILES SILVER	£6,495	£5,995	A

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## CLIO

	WAS	NOW	LOC
2007 07 CLIO 3DR 1.2 16V EXTREME ALLOYS CD PLAYER CLOAKING 22780 MILES MET PEARL BLACK	£5,295	£4,995	M
2008 08 CLIO 3DR 1.2 16V FREEMAN CLOAKING SINGLE CD PLAYER 15658 MILES PACIFIC BLUE	£5,495	£4,995	M
2007 07 CLIO 3DR 1.2 16V RIP CURL ALLOYS CLOAKING CD PLAYERS 34869 MILES MET PEARL BLACK	£5,795	£5,595	M
2007 57 CLIO 1.2 TCE 100 DYNAMIQUE 3DR 15 ALLOYS CD SUNROOF ELEC PACK 17960 MILES EXTREME BLUE	£6,795	£6,295	A
2008 08 CLIO 3DR 1.2 16V EXPRESSION ALLOYS CD PLAYER CLOAKING 15500 MILES MET EXTREME BLUE	£6,595	£6,395	M
2009 59 CLIO 3DR 1.2 75 EXTREME CD PLAYER TWIN AIR BAGS ABS 11403 MILES METALLIC STONE	£6,995	£6,495	C
2009 59 NEW CLIO 1.2 75 EXTREME 3DR CD PLAYER TWIN AIR BAGS ABS 9767 MILES PISTACHIO GREEN	£6,995	£6,495	C
2006 06 CLIO SDR INITIALE 1.6VVT ALLOYS CLIMATE FULL LEATHER 27000 MILES MET PEARL BLACK	£6,795	£6,495	M
2008 58 NEW CLIO 1.2 TCE 100 DYN 3DR 16 ALLOYS CD A/C ELEC PACK 17359 MILES EXTREME BLUE	£6,995	£6,795	A
2009 59 NEW CLIO 1.2 16V DYNAMIQUE 3DR 16 ALLOYS CD A/C ELEC PACK 10731 MILES PEARL BLACK	£7,295	£6,895	A
2008 58 NEW CLIO 1.2 TCE 100 DYN 3DR 16 ALLOYS CD A/C ELEC PACK 30784 MILES EXTREME BLUE	£7,495	£6,995	A
2008 58 CLIO 1.2 16V DYNAMIQUE 3DR 16 ALLOYS CD A/C ELEC PACK 11200 MILES EXTREME BLUE	£7,895	£7,495	C
2008 58 CLIO 1.5DCI DYNAMIQUE 16 ALLOYS CD A/C ELEC PACK 24608 MILES PEARL BLACK	£7,995	£7,495	C
2009 59 NEW CLIO 1.2 TCE 100 DYNAMIQUE SDR 16 ALLOYS CD A/C ELEC PACK 13980 MILES OYSTER GREY	£8,395	£7,995	A
2010 10 NEW CLIO 3DR 1.2 16V EXTREME CLOAKING CD PLAYER DELIVERY MILEAGE CAPSICUM	£11,040	£7,995	M
2007 56 RENAULTSPORT 197 ALLOYS AIR CON CD PLAYER 26300 MILES ULTRA RED	£8,495	£7,995	M
2010 10 NEW CLIO 3DR 1.2 16V EXTREME CLOAKING CD PLAYER DELIVERY MILEAGE MET PEARL BLACK	£11,445	£8,400	M
2010 10 NEW CLIO 3DR 1.2 16V EXTREME CLOAKING CD PLAYER DELIVERY MILEAGE MET PEARL BLACK	£11,445	£8,400	M
2007 56 RENAULTSPORT 197 17 ALLOYS CLIMATE CD x 6 CRUISE 24675 MILES NIMBUS GREY	£8,995	£8,495	A
2010 10 NEW CLIO 1.2 TCE 3DR i-MUSIC ALLOYS AIR CON CLOAKING BLUETOOTH 2049 MILES METALLIC BLUE	£9,995	£8,995	C
2009 59 CLIO 1.2 TCE PRIVILEGE SDR 16 ALLOYS CD A/C KEYLESS ELEC PACK 9425 MILES MET MERCURY	£9,995	£8,495	C
2010 10 NEW CLIO 1.2 16V 75 DYNAMIQUE 3DR ALLOYS AIR CON CLOAKING DEL MILES METALLIC BLACK	£10,495	£9,995	C
2010 10 NEW CLIO 1.2 TCE i-MUSIC A/C 15 ALLOYS ELEC PACK BLUETOOTH CD DEL MILES PEARL BLACK	£10,495	£9,995	C
2010 10 NEW CLIO 1.2 TCE i-MUSIC A/C 15 ALLOYS ELEC PACK BLUETOOTH CD DEL MILES MERCURY	£10,995	£10,495	C
2010 10 NEW CLIO 1.2 16V 75BHP i-MUSIC A/C 15 ALLOYS ELEC PACK BLUETOOTH CD DEL MILES MERCURY	£10,995	£10,495	C
2010 10 CLIO SPORTS TOURER 1.5DCI DYN AIRCON ALLOYS CLOAKING 9872 MILES METALLIC STONE	£11,495	£10,995	C

## TWINGO

	WAS	NOW	LOC
2007 57 TWINGO 3DR 1.2 TCE GT AIR CON ALLOYS CLOAKING 15320 MILES IN SILVER	£6,295	£5,495	C
2008 58 TWINGO 1.2 8V FREEMAN CLOAKING SINGLE CD PLAYER 3123 MILES IN BLAZE	£6,295	£5,995	C
2010 10 TWINGO 1.2 TCE 100 GT AIRCON ALLOYS CLOAKING 26557 MILES CAPSICUM RED	£6,150	£5,995	M
2010 10 TWINGO 1.2 FREEMAN CD ABS ALLOYS CLOAKING 1623 MILES IN METALLIC SILVER	£6,795	£6,495	C
2009 59 TWINGO RENAULTSPORT 133 17 ALLOYS CUP PACK CD PLAYER 4217 MILES IN CAPSICUM RED	£9,495	£9,295	M
2009 59 TWINGO RENAULTSPORT 133 17 ALLOYS CUP PACK CD PLAYER 3450 MILES IN CAPSICUM RED	£10,995	£9,995	C
2010 10 TWINGO RENAULTSPORT 133 17 ALLOYS CD A/C ELEC PACK 500 MILES EXTREME BLUE	£13,495	£12,995	A

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# FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader

## Mondeo sector facing a challenge from Hyundai

HYUNDAI will hope it can maintain the progress in the eyes of UK customers, by adding a fourth 'i' model to its line-up.

The new i40 will tackle the UK's D segment, more familiarly known as the Mondeo class.

The Korean giant has contested the sector before with the Stellar and, more recently, the Sonata, but never cracked it. Despite loading these contenders with goodies and tempting prices, they could never compete dynamically with European models.

But, as Hyundai has shown

with the i10 city car, i20 super-mini and i30 family hatch, it can now hit the spot and with all the value offered before, plus its five year/unlimited mileage warranty.

Curiously though, the i40 arrives here first in estate form – as pictured – with a saloon to follow. It will also mark the debut of Hyundai's new Blue Drive eco-motoring package, claimed to deliver performance with economy and low CO2 emissions.

The newcomer will be publicly unveiled in March and goes on sale later this year.



## Premium power goes into latest Saab



SAAB has announced premium upgrades to Vector SE versions of its smart new 9-5 executive saloon.

The Swedish marque – formed into a new company last year alongside Dutch supercar maker Spyker – now offers these models with leather seats as standard, instead of the previous leather and textile trim.

And, mindful of the need to rebuild its aura in the tough executive sector, Saab has

ditched the slightly underwhelming 17-inch alloys in favour of 18 inchers that suit the car's looks better.

All 2.0-litre TiD 160PS (158bhp) diesel models with manual transmission also now get a revised comfort chassis set-up.

Saab says the latter change responds to motoring media comments about the previous sports chassis comfort levels on poorly-maintained UK roads.

## VW's five-star twins

EURO NCAP crash safety testing has awarded a maximum five stars to the new Volkswagen Passat and Sharan MPV models.

Scoring an overall 96 per cent, the Sharan (from £22,980) achieved one of the highest ever results in Euro NCAP's most stringent tests to date.

The results for adult protection in frontal, side and rear impacts as well as child and pedestrian safety mean the VW people carrier is among the safest in its category.

The previous Passat already had five stars, but the new seventh generation model has retained the maximum, with strong scores for adult and child occupant protection and pedestrian safety.

Prices start at £18,470 for the saloon and £19,745 for the estate and all diesel versions now carry the marque's eco-friendly BlueMotion technology and badge.



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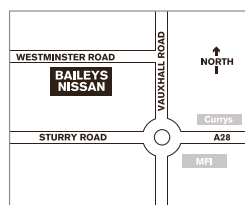
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by  
**STEVELOADER**

TOYOTA makes a well-judged return to the mini-MPV market in February as more and more car-buyers aim to downsize.

The world's number one carmaker will also reinforce the status of its Verso sub-branding, a byword for flexibility already used on the seven-seat Verso midi-MPV and worn for some years on the former Yaris Verso.

The latter was an earlier incarnation of the mini-MPV format later made popular by the Honda Jazz and recently reinforced by the Hyundai ix20 and Kia Venga.

Toyota will hope to give them all a run for their money with the new Verso-S – rather better looking than the old van-like Yaris Verso too.

In fact, Toyota's stylists have fashioned a trendy-looking small car from a functional brief. At less than four metres long, it is the shortest model in the mini-MPV segment, but clever packaging makes it one of the most capacious and versatile, with an airy cabin that can be enhanced by an optional panoramic roof.

The 60:40 split rear seats have a centre arm rest and a one-touch fold-flat mechanism. Unlike rivals, these seats can also be folded from the boot, using levers provided on the load space sidewalls.

For now, it will be offered with the familiar 98bhp 1.33-litre petrol engine seen on the Yaris and available with either a six-speed manual transmission, or a continuously variable transmission – either being capable of averaging more than 50mpg.

Spec levels and prices are being finalised, but Toyota promises the generous equipment levels that this sector now demands and it also comes with the brand's now standard five-year/100,000 warranty.

# A well-Verso-ed return to the baby MPV sector for Toyota



## Motorhome dealer 'moves house'

MOTOR caravan specialist TC Motorhomes has relocated to new and bigger premises for 2011.

The firm's dealer principal Tony Chamberlain, who has been associated with car sales in Thanet for nearly 30 years, said his firm had rapidly outgrown its old site in Westwood Road, Broadstairs, since diverging into new and used motorhomes, campervans and caravans in recent years.

It has now refurbished and taken over

a site in Sweeneybridge Road, Hillborough, Herne Bay, well-known to the caravan community as a former Arthur Fitt Caravans and Discover Leisure sales location.

Mr Chamberlain said he now fully expected the new site to become the biggest motorhome and caravan dealer in Kent, having carried over many familiar brands including Adria, Caravans International (CI), Elddis, Globecar, Rollerteam, Swift, Tribute and Trigano.

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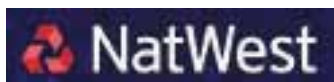
## INSIDE THIS WEEK

SOME will say bankers – blamed for the credit crunch – are the last people we want pontificating about prospects for 2011, but the views from RBS inside make interesting reading. The national resolve is not to depend on the money men in future, but our British genius for invention and export, so it's great to see a home-grown innovation (see page 65) literally paving the way.



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# Tough year ahead, but Bluewater breaks ice

By **STEVE LOADER**

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RETAILERS across Kent have been warned they face a tough year ahead – on top of the business lost before Christmas due to weeks of snow and sub-zero temperatures.

That was the view from accountancy giant KPMG, though its caution was tempered by news of a buoyant festive season at the county's mega-shopping mall, Bluewater.

The centre, near Greenhithe, recorded nearly 200,000 shoppers on December 27, its busiest day since opening in 1999 and crowning a record year of more than 28 million visitors – with a million of these coming in the week beginning Boxing Day.

However, Bluewater general manager Andrew Parkinson kept his feet on the ground, attributing much of the post-Christmas stampede to pent-up demand created by icy weather before the holiday.

He was still able to point out that the centre enjoyed 34 new store openings last year, when many other centres and high streets struggled to maintain shopfronts or suffered closures.

He also looked ahead to Bluewater opening its Events Venue later this year, a purpose-built



**BUOYANT:** Bluewater bucked the trend and enjoyed an excellent festive period

space for complementary events and exhibitions that will boost the centre's magnetism for visitors.

Despite the Bluewater experience, KPMG retail partners Helen Dickinson and Tim Clifford gave a gloomy forecast: "There's no doubt that non-food trading in the four weeks to Christmas saw a drop in like-for-like sales, with many retailers having a difficult time. Many people struggled to get to the shops because of the snow. Those that did had less to spend than in previous years."

"Online sales continued to grow despite the weather, but many pre-Christmas delivery slots appear to have been missed."

"Retailers with the right online offer – along with out-of-town shopping centres with better

road access – have done comparatively better."

"Post-Christmas sales are now crucial to December's results. But with few panic price reductions and little more than the expected amount of discounting, it's likely the sales season will quickly run out of steam."

"Many retailers have been carefully managing stock positions to protect their margins, where possible, in the expectation that Christmas 2010 would not be a blockbuster, irrespective of the weather."

"The industry knows it is in for a tough year. As well as the VAT rise, customers are tightening their belts because they're worried about their jobs and personal finances in what are likely to be tougher economic conditions in 2011."

## Give us more credit, says airport boss

Picture: ANDREW DUNSMORE



**TOP FLIGHT:** Staff at Biggin Hill Airport

BIGGIN Hill Airport is underrated by local people but poised to make them sit up and take notice during the build-up to the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

That is the view of airport director Peter Lonergan, who says the 2012 Games are a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to show the global business and private aviation market how high standards have been set at Biggin Hill, which is owned by Bromley council.

Once a £400,000 a year liability for the council, the airport and related companies and activities have become an asset, generating up to £1.2 million during 2010. Mr Lonergan said the 2012 Olympics could only enhance that.

"I don't think many people realise how much income for the council the airport generates," he said. "The potential for attracting new business during this brief window is high and our aim is to provide a top-class service they will remember."

But he called for support to enable the airport to fulfil its potential: "We need decisions now to enable the integrated components to be put in place, such as recruiting and training new staff; to be able to verify modestly extended hours of operation; and to plan and introduce enhancements to our own infrastructure."

"Unnecessary delays will see our opportunities wither on the vine, to the detriment of all. We need the community to understand and to be supportive of our Olympics plans so that we can make the very best of this short-term event to win a legacy of longer term and lasting benefits."

The airport recently landed a national award as Best Business Aviation Airport, and Mr Lonergan confirmed it would be making the most of favourable links with central London and the Olympic Park at Stratford to attract potential visitors in business and private aircraft travelling to the capital for the Games.

EMPLOYERS in Kent are being urged to start 2011 with a redoubled commitment to combat deaths in the workplace.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) warning comes after work-related fatalities in the South East rose, out of step with a record low across England.

Figures for 2009-10 show 15 people in the South East were fatally injured at work; one higher than 2008-09 and at odds with a sharp fall across the country, which suffered 119 losses in 2009-10 against 146 the year before.

Though Kent fared slightly better than its regional neighbours, two people still lost their lives in 2009-10 – the same result as 2008-09.

## Workplace safety tops the agenda

Those killed were in the Swale and Tonbridge and Malling council districts. And parts of Kent showed worrying increases in serious injuries, notably the Sevenoaks, Dover and Ashford districts. HSE regional head Mike Wilcock said there was no room for complacency, even if Kent had largely fared better than its neighbours.

"Employers have a legal duty to protect workers and I encourage them to make it their New

Year's resolution to ensure they continue to take sensible precautions in the workplace," he said.

"The national reduction of employees killed or injured through their work is encouraging, but we must also remember that each death results in a family missing a loved one. The increase in 2009-10 in the South East is doubly disappointing after years of improvement."

"Employers cannot be complacent. They must stay vigilant and learn lessons from the past to ensure they protect workers in future."

"Putting in place simple, straightforward health and safety measures can save lives. It is not good for companies or their workers if they are off through an injury or ill-health."



# Comment

IT HAS been suggested that firms will use this week's 2.5 per cent VAT hike to disguise what some may feel is a well-deserved price rise on top of the new tax rate. I hope, for theirs and all our sakes, that they don't.

As we have said regularly on the Kent business front, companies have shown good sense over the past three years, their measured responses to cost-cutting and staffing levels contrasting strongly with the knee-jerk reactions of past recessions.

As a result, we haven't had a disastrous rate of company crashes and unemployment. So, with finance largely under control and a viable level of employee experience and skills in place, most firms are now in good shape for recovery without being rash enough to try to race off straight away.

However, if they take the new 20 per cent VAT as an excuse to claw back some lost profitability from the recession years, then they will fuel the inflation that is waiting just around the corner to catch out UK plc.

Big, high-profile retailers like Debenhams and Marks and Spencer have pledged to absorb a proportion of the VAT increase for as long as possible – shrewd PR as well as good tactics when observers will be keen to shoot them down for 'inflationary' price rises.

It is smaller operators I worry about.

Low interest rates have kept mortgages low and helped families cope with prices already under pressure from a weak pound and soaring energy and motoring costs.

But if inflation starts to gain ground faster – and the 2.5 per cent rise in VAT isn't going to help in that regard – then the Bank of England will have to review interest rates to try to rein in the old enemy.

The knock on effect will be: dearer mortgages, stuttering confidence and then a catastrophic fall in consumer spending.

Just as we have started to construct a better all-round economic vehicle to replace the over-specialised financial racer that crashed so spectacularly in 2007, we could then see the wheels fall off the new model.

BUSINESS EDITOR, STEVE LOADER

## Money men have their say on the year ahead

# Kent's six reasons to be cheerful in 2011

IF THE past three years has taught us anything it's to expect the unexpected – and a lot of uncertainty remains for UK business.

A loss of market confidence or further problems in the financial system could still derail the fragile recovery, but here are my six reasons why business should be optimistic in 2011.

### • Company balance sheets are in better shape than households and Government

The balance sheet of the UK corporate sector is in a position of relative health, especially in comparison with households and Government. Firms used the downturn to preserve cashflows, pay-down debt and seek new capital.

Spare capacity created by the downturn is starting to reduce rapidly, while long-term borrowing rates remain historically low, providing a sound basis for an improvement in investment.

### • Our flexible labour market helped us weather the downturn

Compared with downturns in the early 1980s and 1990s, employment levels have been much more resilient over the last three years. Firms used options for part-time work or reassignments rather than just relying on lay-offs. As a result, more workers have been kept in productive use than before, helping to retain and enhance skills.

### • Sterling will keep us in good shape

We still have a flexible and competitive exchange rate. The 25 per cent depreciation in sterling since 2007 offers a more immediate trade benefit. In contrast to the monetary constraints faced by some of the peripheral countries in the Eurozone, we retain the flexibility of using the exchange rate as a tool for growth. With world trade growing at a double-digit rate in 2010, a competitive exchange rate will have a great impact as global demand improves.

### • It's still a competitive advantage to be British

English is the global business language, our legal systems are widely used, and GMT allows us to work in both the Asian afternoon and the North American morning. We have strengths of which other countries would be envious.

The World Bank recently rated us the fourth best country in the world in terms of ease of doing business. Indeed, our stock of inward foreign direct investment per capita is the world's second highest.

### • We've been here before and prospered

The most well-worn phrase in economics is "this time it's different". Almost invariably, this turns out to be false. This applies not just to asset bubbles in an upturn, but also to the nature of recovery. The mid-1990s were also characterised by major cutbacks in government spending, yet these were also years of positive growth and improvements in investment and trade.

### • We have export strengths to build on

We are no strangers to international trade, indeed we are one of the most open economies in the world. We must build on this. We are the world's sixth largest exporter, and the second largest in terms of services. We have strengths in high value-added manufacturing, such as aerospace and pharmaceuticals, as well as traditional export products, such as cars and foodstuffs. And, if all else fails, there is always the old British sense of humour and stoicism to fall back upon.

Stephen Boyle, economist, RBS

AT CREASEYS, we expect that cautious optimism will continue. There are uncertainties ahead, with the threat of a double-dip recession caused by higher interest rates to control inflation. Well-managed

clients, in the main, are already leaner and meaner, which will enable them to react quickly to changing circumstances.

Our tip for 2011 would be to ensure you are maintaining good relationships with customers, staff and suppliers. Regular communication is key to being one step ahead of any problems that arise.

Rob Blundell, partner, Creaseys accountancy, Tunbridge Wells



ROB BLUNDELL

GOVERNMENT austerity measures are a necessity to wean the UK from the credit binge of the last 10 years or so.

Doing nothing is not an option – and adding to the pile of debt is also not the way forward. There are some bitter pills to be taken, but it is in the long-term interest of the UK economy that clear, concise and immediate action is taken.

Businesses that have survived the last two years cannot afford to become complacent. The recovery will be slow, credit will remain relatively tight as banks look to ensure they are lending sensibly to well-structured, well-managed and financially viable propositions. If not, the sustainability of the recovery could be undermined.

My top tip for business in 2011 is to reflect on this old adage – which is true, whatever the state of the economy or whatever the business: 'Turnover is vanity, profit is sanity, but cash is king.'

Nick Green, branch manager, Handelsbanken, Tunbridge Wells



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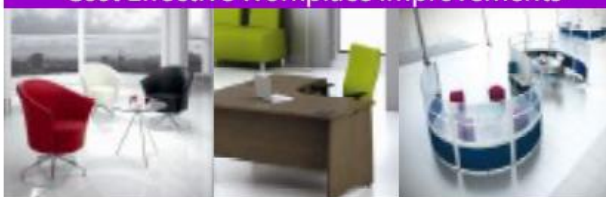
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PROPERTY agent Cluttons has welcomed the New Year though it warns of a "mixed road" ahead for the retail and office markets in Kent in 2011.

Regional spokesman James Stefanopoulos, based in Maidstone, said: "2010 was a good year for the industrial and retail markets in Kent with prime retail and modern industrial premises still receiving strong interest, though the office market continues to be the worst hit.

"Having said that, commercial development land was very popular owing to a slight fall in land values. Developers and investors bought in stock to allow time for planning and to prepare for when the market picks up."

Looking ahead, he added: "Our view for 2011 is that the commercial market will take a while to improve, with most transactions still dependent on some sort of bank funding. With that in mind, we predict a slow but positive recovery towards the end of this year, in time for a healthier 2012."

**LEVELS of personal insolvency are falling after a steady rise over the last decade and a peak in 2009, according to the Insolvency Service.**

But it warned more needs to be done to encourage people to manage their money better and avoid insolvency. Britain's over-65s are the fastest growing group of bankrupts, though still lower than other UK age groups – pensioners' bankruptcies have increased six times in a decade. An Insolvency Service spokesman advised: "If you are getting into trouble, act quickly and seek advice about how to deal with it.

"There are plenty of sources of advice, many of which are free. If insolvency looms, remember you have choices. Discuss these with your adviser and make sure you understand which is best for you."

**FOLLOWING** a merger with top 25 UK chartered accountancy Wilkins Kennedy in 2008, Ashford accountants WK Finn-Kelcey has decided to change its name to Wilkins Kennedy FKC.

Founded in 1920 as Finn-Kelcey and Chapman, the Ashford firm and its sister office in Orpington has four partners and 70 staff. Wilkins Kennedy partner Hugh Summerfield said: "We decided to maintain the historical name connection but, at the same time, highlight the availability of our new solid, larger product base."

The parent firm was established in 1882 and has 53 partners and almost 400 staff in 12 offices across southern England.

**SHEPHERD** Neame has warned that pubs and restaurants face another tough year.

The Faversham brewer's chief executive, Jonathan Neame, said: "The economic situation will continue to be uncertain and is likely to lead to an increase in competition for pub customers and in drinks distribution.

"There was some positive support for beer and pubs in the Treasury's review of alcohol taxation.

"However, the key test of the Government's resolve will be the next Budget. Wet-led pubs in low income areas will continue to struggle and close with the effects of the duty escalator and the VAT increase, unless the Chancellor changes course. A key area of development for Shepherd Neame in the coming year is to enhance digital marketing support for our licensees. This will help them to drive footfall and reward the loyalty of customers to our pubs."

# Treading lightly leaves a low carbon footprint

PUPILS at a Kent school believe they have taken a first step to a greener world after switching on the lights by simply walking down a corridor, *writes Steve Loader.*

Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys in Canterbury has become a county pioneer tested for award-winning Pavegen floor tiles, invented by former student Laurence Kembell-Cook.

The inventor – who lives locally, with his brainchild manufactured in nearby Harbledown – seems set to capture the imagination of a world threatened by global warming and dwindling energy sources.

It has already been earmarked for use on the 2012 London Olympics site, and is helping the new Westfield shopping centre in Shepherds Bush meet stringent targets for environmental sustainability.

The product is also on show at the Science Museum in London, in the £4.5 million Atmosphere Gallery opened in December by the Prince of Wales, who expressed interest in the wide range of Pavegen applications.

Pavegen slabs turn kinetic energy from footsteps into electricity, to power street lighting, information signs and other applications that can spring to life when people approach them.

But its inventor is also enthused by the thought-provoking potential from installing his product at his old school.

He said: "Our aim is not only to help the school reduce its bills but to get students engaged in the energy-generation process," said Kembell-Cook. "Pavegen has been work-



**NEXT STEP:** Laurence Kembell-Cook's invention is being trialled at his old school

ing closely with Simon Langton for over a year now. The school recognised the innovation and potential of our technology early on."

Kembell-Cook, 25, developed the technology at Loughborough University in 2009 while studying Industrial Design and Technology. The product has won awards from bodies including the Technology Strategy Board, the Chartered Institute of Builders and Loughborough University.

And science minister David Willetts recently described Pavegen as a "great example of British innovation". He commended the zero-carbon innovation as "imaginative, environmentally

friendly, designed for the modern world".

Pavegen Systems is seeking further installation sites keen to harness this previously untapped resource – dancefloors, railway stations, and busy shopping streets and centres being obvious applications.

The firm has shown that using some of the 'stepping power' to light up branded signs under foot could help remind shoppers that they are passing a store worth popping into.

But Kembell-Cook is not resting on his laurels. He promises other innovations in the pipeline, including shoes that charge a mobile telephone while you walk.



**LIGHT WORK:** Corridors at Simon Langton Grammar School



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# Abacus is counting on playground partnership

ABACUS Playgrounds, the UK's largest installer of safety surfaces for children's play areas, has received £1.6 million refinance facilities through new banking partner NatWest.

The Kent firm has been built into a £8m a year turnover concern by entrepreneurs Geoff Rodwell and Mick White, with a headquarters in Northfleet and regional offices in Scotland, Cumbria and Nottingham.

It claims good links with many local authorities as well as play equipment manufacturers and building contractors and recently embarked on a scheme, in conjunc-

tion with the Great Outdoor Gym Company, to build 212 free-use outdoor gymnasiums prior to the 2012 Olympics in London. The scheme aims to tackle childhood obesity and encourage healthier lifestyles and participation in sport for adults.

## Growth

Abacus looked for a new banking partner to work in line with the growth of the business and was recommended to speak to NatWest by Mark Britland, a partner in Magee Gammon chartered accountants.

Mike Prett and Richard Marshall from NatWest worked in partnership to

secure finance facilities of £1.6m for existing debt as well as working capital.

Mr Rodwell said: "Both Mick and I had a vision over the last decade to become the leader in our field, which we have achieved in terms of geographical spread as well as providing experts to help us deliver. We have a lot to look forward to and can do so with the confidence of having our new banking partner on board."

Mr Marshall, business development director with NatWest, said: "Geoff and Mick are great examples of how dedicated entrepreneurs can succeed and should be proud of putting Abacus on the road to success."



**CHILD'S PLAY:**  
(From left, back) Mark Britland of Magee Gammon, Mike Prett and Richard Marshall of NatWest; (front) Geoff Rodwell and Mick White, of Abacus Playgrounds

# Visit Kent targets award return

By **STEVE LOADER**

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VISIT Kent, the county's tourist champion, has been shortlisted for Destination of the Year – the top award by trade association UKinbound.

It is the second consecutive year the private/public tourism partnership has been nominated and it went on to win the award in 2009. It now faces Ireland, Yorkshire and

London in the race for the 2010 honour.

UKinbound works with businesses and organisations attracting visitors to the UK and offers a number of other awards for which Kent-based attractions and companies are in the running. English Heritage's Dover Castle is nominated for Attraction of the Year, in competition with Madame Tussauds, St Paul's Cathedral and Warwick Castle.

Eurostar is up against the Big Bus Company, the Original London Sightseeing Tour and, City Cruises, for Transport Provider of the Year.

And Therese Heslop, visitor services manager at Canterbury Cathedral, and her team are



**LYNNETTE CRISP**

shortlisted for the Customer Welcome of the Year award, in competition with Encore Tickets, Bateaux in London, and the retail ticket office of the Original London Sightseeing Tour.

Lynnette Crisp, marketing manager at Visit Kent, said: "To be in the running for this award again is recognition of the hard work carried out by all our partners and investors across the county."

"Visit Kent is committed to encouraging tour operators to feature Kent in their programmes, which is increasingly challenging in a highly competitive market."

"This could not be achieved without the support of our industry partners who give up their valuable time to host visiting operators and showcase their venues."

"The more tour operators choose to feature Kent, the more visitors we will welcome to the county."

Tourism contributes more than £2.5 billion to the Kent and Medway economy every year and supports 3,000 businesses.

The UKinbound 2010 award winners will be announced on February 10, at the UKinbound annual convention, at Alton Towers Resort.

## Author aims to bridge the gap

DESPITE recent evidence of an improvement in the gender pay gap and an increase in women at the top of companies, there is still an imbalance in the UK.

Now Kent Science Park near Sittingbourne is hosting a monthly series of day-long workshops to help women learn and improve their professional skills. Presented by best-selling author and business training expert Susan Odev, the first will be on January 27 and focuses on effective time management.

Susan said: "Statistics show only five of the FTSE 100 have a female as chief executive, and only 13 per cent of FTSE 100 directors are women. It's often suggested one of the reasons is women have different priorities when it comes to establishing their work/life balance."

"The first of my six workshops at Kent Science Park looks at a variety of techniques professional women can use to help them manage their time to achieve the balance that best suits them and that will allow them to progress within their career without having to sacrifice home life. Everyone is different and there's no right or wrong way to approach time management."

Louise Brenlund, of Kent law firm Brachers, attended a taster session last year. She said: "Susan was an enthusiastic speaker and very engaging, which made the presentation fly by."

More information is available from jen.francis@ksp-uk.com.

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# Directline following in the tracks of hoppers

**STEVE LOADER**

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LAND that once echoed to the seasonal sounds of thousands of hop-pickers is being fast-tracked to provide more new opportunities for modern-day companies.

Plans have been approved to build industrial units on Hawkhurst Station Business Park, a 14-acre site on the A229 between Hawkhurst and Cranbrook, which already hosts a range of national and local companies.

The 12,000 sq ft and 20,000 sq ft units will be built by award-winning Ashford-based Directline Structures, on the site of the former Hawkhurst railway station, which opened in 1893 and closed in 1961.

The steam engine shed and signal box still survive – the latter wears the colours of the former Southern Railway and its green and white sign. Park owner Peter Dunlop has made retaining the site's railway heritage a cornerstone of his development plans.

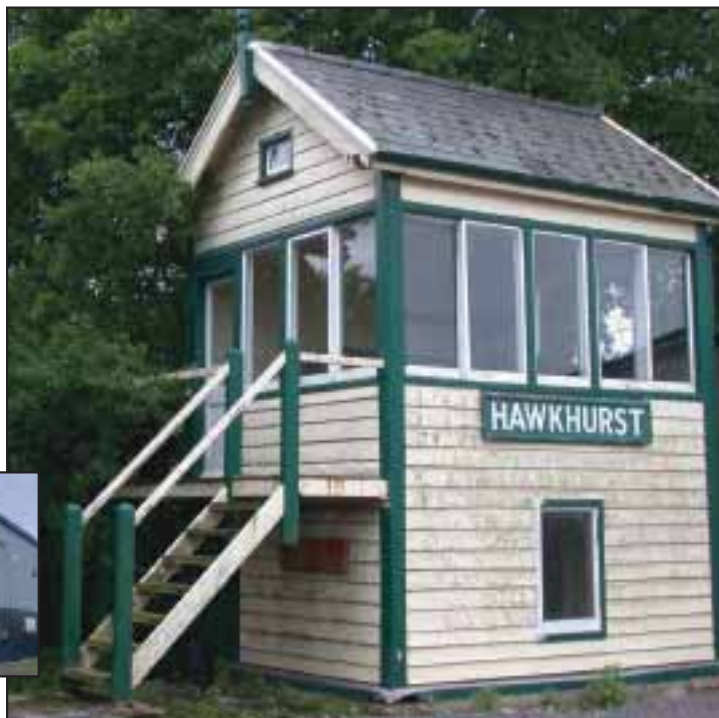
He said: "It is important to preserve the history of steam railways in Kent and I believe they are a feature of this site which sets it apart from so many other locations."

Prior to its closure, he added, Hawkhurst station would come alive every September during the hop-picking season, when 26 special trains would arrive daily, each carrying about 350 people to work in the hop gardens across the Weald. Directline Structures has constructed previous buildings on the same site and the new units have been designed to be flexible to suit tenants' needs, and can be sub-divided or linked.

Rod Hindley, of Tunbridge Wells-based Compass Commercial, is agent for the business park and confident of substantial interest.

He said: "The park has excellent access to the A21 and is ideal for companies looking to expand their business in the region serving Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge, Sevenoaks, Maidstone and surrounding areas."

Directline Structures is a family-owned design and construction company which moved from Goudhurst – close to Hawkhurst – to a modern office it built in Ashford in 2009. It won accolades for the quality of its sustainable design and construction at the annual Kent Environment Awards and also at the London and South East Constructing Excellence Awards. The firm has designed and constructed nearly 200 buildings for clients across Kent and South East since it was formed in 1988.



**PRESERVED:** Signal box at Hawkhurst, where the engine shed also survives  
**INSET:** An industrial unit built on the site for joinery supplier Howdens



## Experienced partner takes on trust role

GARY Hicks, a partner at Kent accountancy firm Reeves, has taken on the role of head of trusts and estates to develop and strengthen that area of the practice.

He has more than 20 years' experience in working on all aspects of trusts, estates and charitable trusts. He previously worked for Deloitte and Saffery Champness before joining FW Stephens in 2008 as trust manager.

When FW Stephens merged with Reeves in June, 2010, Mr Hicks was promoted to partner within the merged firm.

Mr Hicks has also been a member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP) since 1996 and sits on its charities special interest group and the STEP London Central branch committee.

Clive Stevens, managing partner at Reeves and its former head of trusts and estates, said: "The increasingly complex tax regimes for trusts and the financial implications of estate planning demand specialist expertise."

"Reeves has invested in developing that expertise to ensure clients benefit from the best possible advice in this critical area and we are confident Gary's experience will further benefit clients."



**GARY HICKS**

## April's Act now giving bribery the red card

ALLEGATIONS of bribery are not confined to Fifa officials, says Dartford-based solicitors Vizards Wyeth, which is urging companies to protect themselves ahead of April's new Bribery Act.

The Financial Services Authority (FSA) has suggested that many companies will not be able to prove that they have taken adequate steps to protect against bribery within their organisation.

Vizards Wyeth partner Robert Ryder said: "Problems occur if a company has not taken adequate steps to protect themselves from bribery, or are sufficiently aware of practices that could be seen as contentious."

"Even gifts can be seen as bribes if they are extravagant."

"Although the Act is focused on the financial sector, it can affect all businesses, especially those in the construction industry who may be working abroad and competing for contracts. It's important to note that the Act does not just apply to the UK."

The maximum sentence for an organisation is an unlimited fine and, in some cases, employees and directors can also face criminal penalties.

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# Winning mind games is first step towards sporting success

By **DAVID PRITCHARD**

IN AN industry which appears to rely heavily on physical prowess for success, an increasing proportion of sportsmen and women are looking to address their mental approach in a bid to get ahead.

Research in sports psychology goes back several decades and has been used at the top level of many disciplines, particularly in the United States, for almost as long.

But as increasing professionalism drips downwards, techniques which work for elite athletes are increasingly being adopted further down the rankings.

Karl Steptoe first came across the discipline as a professional golfer and was so enthused by it he trained to become a qualified psychologist.

Living in Wye, near Ashford, he helps a range of individuals, including Tenterden golfer Benn Barham, looking to improve their performances and believes most people still have the wrong impression of what a sports psychologist does.

"Individual sports like tennis and golf are much more open to it, whereas in team sports it comes down to how relevant the manager sees it," he said.

"There are a lot of barriers because people don't want to address the mental side of the game even though they know it's important. There are also some misconceptions about what it is – it's not just about think-



**MIND:** Sports psychologist Karl Steptoe has helped several of Kent's sports stars

ing positively. From a performance point of view the more interesting stuff that defines my training is on barriers to performance.

"The people I see can be put into two broad areas. On one side you have the well functioning athlete who wants to add to their game, and the other group is where there is a barrier which is stopping them from performing."

Gillingham certainly fell into the second category when they sought out the help of Ashley Lawrence in the wake of a humiliating FA Cup defeat to Dover Athletic in November. It was a low point for a talented

squad which had woefully underperformed since the start of the season.

Clear the air talks were held both as a group and individually to discuss what had gone wrong. The Gills lost the next game, but then promptly won their next five games to rocket up the table.

One of the biggest improvements was in the form of striker Adebayo Akinfenwa, who admitted he had not been feeling himself during the poor run, but has since rediscovered his best form.

He said: "The major thing is we had open-air talks after the Dover game and it was 'look, it's going to be a really long season if we don't change the way we are'. It was like as a squad off the pitch it was second to none; we got on and I just felt we didn't transfer that on to the pitch.

"Ash came in and I think he's made a massive difference. It's just sitting down and talking and being in an environment where it doesn't matter if you're 35 or 18, your opinion counts and if you've got something to say, you say it. It's nice sometimes to have someone to bridge the gap between the players and the management. It's all been positive, so long may it continue."

It is not just the mood within the camp which can make an impact either. Lawrence says the atmosphere in the stands, which had been downbeat during the Gills' poor run, had the potential to make a big impact.

He said: "If you think about the negativity from people it's like a shower that sucks you back. What the fans don't realise is when they get on players' backs they're not helping them perform."



**BENEFICIAL:** Gills striker Adebayo Akinfenwa's form improved after the club used a sports psychologist  
Picture: ADY KERRY

## Mos' Chong signs two-way contract with top EPL side

IMPRESSIVE performances for Great Britain's under-20 side last month have made Invicta Dynamos forward Liam Chong a transfer target for English Premier League (EPL) sides.

The 18-year-old helped the national side win a bronze medal at the World Junior Ice Hockey Championships in Belarus.

Chong was one of the youngest players in Pete Russell's 21-man squad after making the step up from the under-18s last year.

His displays in Bobruisk alerted teams in the EPL, one tier above the Mos, who play in the National League. Under-21 players are able to sign two-way contracts in domestic ice hockey and with the Mos' permission the promising talent played for EPL side Basingstoke Bison on Saturday, scoring in a 7-3 win against Bracknell Bees.

Kevin Parrish, the Mos head coach, is pleased Chong is making progress, providing he remains on the club's roster for the rest of the campaign.

He said: "Liam wants to play at the highest level he can. Hopefully, we can keep hold of him until the end of the season – fortunately he doesn't seem too bothered about moving before then."

Parrish feels there are benefits to being seen as a club which develops youngsters.

He said: "I think it gives guys an incentive to come to us because we will allow them two-way contracts and it could open doors for them. It also gives us a relationship with EPL teams who may consider us for players coming the other way."

## ONES TO WATCH...

## KoS LOOKS AT THE UP-AND-COMING STARS WHO MIGHT MAKE THE HEADLINES IN 2011

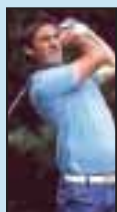
THE NEW Year brings renewed optimism about the 12 months which lie ahead, and sportsmen and women are no exception. With several of the county's football clubs putting together promotion challenges, The Open championship coming to Royal St George's in July, and the countdown to the London Olympics reaching its latter stages for the county's top athletes, 2011 promises to be a memorable year for Kent sport.

### Matt Haines

TURNING professional has seen many a promising amateur golfer come unstuck, but the 21-year-old made it look ridiculously easy after making the decision last May.

Haines made the cut at his first four tournaments on the European Challenge Tour and a strong finish culminated with a victory in the final event of the season, securing the Chatham golfer's card for the European Tour without having to go to Qualifying School.

The elite tour marks another sizeable step up, but if the Rochester & Cobham Park member can continue his development then his ambitions should stretch beyond mere survival.



### Matt Coles

A DEBUT season that saw Rob Key begin the campaign reluctant to throw Matt Coles the ball, ended with the 20-year-old being one of the captain's turn-to bowlers.

He was given a chance at the start of last summer and grabbed the opportunity with both hands.

The test will now be how he copes with a second season in first-class cricket where much more will be expected of him, especially in Division Two of the County Championship.

Much is expected of his batting skills as well with Kent's coaching staff secretly hoping he can make the number seven spot his own in the batting line-up.



Picture: ADY KERRY



### Leon Camier

THE talented rider is set for his second season in the World Superbike Championship and will be considered among the title contenders.

His first campaign on the world stage last year may have ended prematurely with a broken wrist, but he more than showed his potential.

The former British Superbike champion from Ashford has agreed a new deal to continue racing with last year's winning constructor Aprilia and will be targeting race wins this season.

### Tom Phipp

EBBSFLEET United have unearthed a gem this season in midfielder Tom Phipp, and the possibilities in 2011 look endless for the highly-rated teenager.

Handed a first-team contract by Fleet manager Liam Daish last summer, Phipp burst onto the scene with a series of mature displays and crucial goals in Conference South.

Still only 17, Phipp spent five years in the Arsenal youth set-up before joining the Ebbsfleet PASE scheme and winning the FA County Youth Cup with Kent. Now a fixture in the Fleet side, Phipp has taken instantly to senior football and a repeat performance this year will surely attract the attentions of Football League scouts.



Picture: DAVID PLUMB

# Recovering golfer goes for some unusual rehab

Picture: ADY KERRY



ON COURSE: Tenterden's Benn Barham has been sidelined since undergoing an operation in November to remove a cancerous tumour

## Barham targets Kenya Open – and Ponte Vecchio Bridge!

PROFESSIONAL golfer Benn Barham intends to make a competitive return to the course in March as he bravely steps up his recovery from a cancer scare at the end of last year.

The former European Tour golfer has been on the sidelines after undergoing an operation in November to remove a kidney containing a cancerous tumour.

Since going under the knife, the Tenterden-based player has received the all-clear and is already planning his return to the European Challenge Tour.

Barham has worked hard on his fitness during the last month and has even managed to aid his recovery by completing nine holes

By **TOM HOWARD**

at Chart Hills in Biddenden. The 34-year-old is pleased with his progress and says he is confident he will return to the European Challenge Tour at the Kenya Open, which begins on March 31.

He said: "The rehab is going okay. My coach has set me a programme which I have been working on at the gym and I've even managed to get nine holes in here and there at Chart Hills.

"I'm seeing the shots, but not quite hitting them at the moment, but that will come with time. I've been hitting some good tee shots and my putting has been good.

"I've had a few aches and pains, but on the whole things are going well. I hope to be at

the Kenya Open, but if I receive any invites to tournaments before then, I may play in those depending on how I feel."

Although he may have to wait another two months to make his comeback, Barham took part in the Ponte Vecchio Golf Challenge in Italy a week before Christmas.

The exhibition event saw 13 professional golfers, including Robert Karlsson, hit shots from the Ponte Vecchio Bridge at floating targets in the River Arno in Florence.

The competition was won by Spaniard Alejandro Canizares.

Barham said: "I wasn't sure whether or not to go, but I only had to hit 40 shots in the tournament and in the end it turned out to be a bit of a holiday break, mixed with a bit of work. Unfortunately, I didn't make it out of the group stage, but it was a good event."

## Confused Masters declines invite to rejoin ladies on European Tour

DANIELLE Masters has chosen to decline an invitation to rejoin the Ladies European Tour (LET) this season after receiving a reduced exemption.

The 27-year-old has been an LET member since 2006, although her career has been hampered ever since losing her card through injury in 2008.

After two years on the periphery, Masters returned to Qualifying School last month in a bid to recapture one of 30 full Tour cards on offer. The Maidstone golfer negotiated her way through pre-qualifying and made the cut at the final stage

in La Manga, Spain. Troubled by a recurring back injury, she was unable to force her way into the top 30 and just missed out on the next category to finish 53rd.

It means she was only eligible for a lower exemption level than last year, which would only have allowed a handful of tournament entries.

She said: "I've decided I'm not going to join the Tour this year. It would have been expensive to become a member and I wouldn't have got many events.

"I'm going to play on the [lower level] Access and Banesto Tours instead and just see how it goes."

Masters was upset with the LET because she had believed reaching the final cut at Qualifying School meant she would retain the same exemption level as last year.

Instead, an email from the Tour several days later confirmed it would be the lower level.

When contacted, the LET explained the confusion had arisen because the top 50 players and ties made it through to the final cut, but to attain the higher exemption the golfers had to finish the final round tied for 50th place.

Masters missed out by two strokes.



Picture: ADY KERRY

INVITATION: Masters



**Kent sport stars have their say on**

**Twitter**

As part of our weekly series, we bring you the pick of the week's tweets from the county's sports stars

MODERN athletes are so professional these days they rarely indulge, even when the rest of us are going a bit over the top at Christmas and New Year.

Most of the Kent sporting community on Twitter appeared to stick to the party line, with the notable exception of superbike rider Shane Byrne, who was in the Czech Republic.

@67Shakey: "Only been here a couple of hours and the in-laws have already got 3 shots of moonshine into me, I'll never make new year at this rate!"

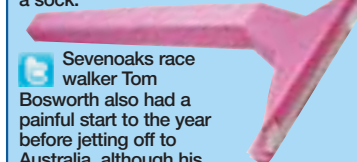
Gillingham winger Dennis Oli had the common sense to at least make up an excuse for straying from the strictly controlled diet.

@dieseleexpress: "My throats still killing me! gonna have a haagen dazs ice cream to soothe it :)"



Elsewhere, the New Year may have begun badly for Kent wicketkeeper Geraint Jones, who was unwisely contemplating improvising a critically important piece of kit. Don't do it, Jonesy.

@GoJones623: "First nets could be interesting if I still can't find my jockstrap. Might have to resort to old-fashioned box in a sock."



Sevenoaks race walker Tom Bosworth also had a painful start to the year before jetting off to Australia, although his predicament could surely have been solved by a quick trip to the shops.

@TomBosworth: "Just had a shave with a woman's leg razor! Now my neck looks like something from a war zone! Ouch!!"

Follow us at [www.twitter.com/kentsport](http://www.twitter.com/kentsport) for the latest sports news from around the county

## Tribute to 'quality player' killed in Afghanistan

THE CANTERBURY rugby player killed on active service in Afghanistan has been described as a "quality player" who could have held his own in the National Leagues.

Joseva Vatubua, 24, was killed in an explosion in Helmand Province on New Year's Day while serving with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Scots.

One of several Fijians to join Canterbury when his regiment was first based at the city's Howe Barracks in 2008, Vatubua was a regular in the club's development side and he also played in the British Army sevens team.

Canterbury press officer David Haigh, said: "Joe didn't play regularly in the first-team because of his irregular pattern of work, but he did represent us in the Kent Cup. He was one of a group of Fijian boys from the regiment, they were all keen players, but he was the best.

"He went to Afghanistan at the beginning of September so he'd not played this season, but was a quality player and he was a regular last season. Joe was certainly a first-team player had the opportunities been there."

Canterbury will hold a collection for Vatubua's family and service charities at their National 2 South home game against Old Albanians on Saturday, January 15.



# Long-term friends continue to track each other's progress

THEY learned the trade together as teenagers and despite their careers taking different paths, Leon Camier and Casey Stoner continue to compete against each other, *writes Tom Howard*.

Kent World Superbike rider Camier and former Moto GP champion Stoner have come a long way since they set foot on the motorsport ladder, but have remained close friends.

Although competing in different world championships, the pair continue to learn from each other in training sessions and are keen to resume their previous on-track battles.

The duo were reunited last month for a series of training sessions at Stoner's Australian home.

But it was in the British 125cc Championship a decade ago when they first met, becoming firm friends and fierce rivals.



**RIVALRY:** Casey Stoner and Leon Camier

Stoner, then 16, made the trip to Britain from Australia in 2000 to launch his superbike career, while Ashford-born Camier was embarking on only his third season of circuit

racing. Stoner won the championship that year while Camier finished 12th overall.

They locked horns the following season, resulting in the Kent rider taking the title.

Since then Stoner has risen through the Moto GP ranks, beating Valentino Rossi to the world title in 2007 at the impressive age of 21.

Although Camier is yet to taste glory in the World Superbike Championship (WSB), the former British champion is hot on his friend's heels in training and is eyeing another track meeting.

Camier said: "After the Phillip Island test last month I went up to Casey's house with my manager Andy Walker, we have all known each other since 2000.

"It's great that we are all still friends. We have been training, but also having fun, but most things turn into a big competition. I'm

thinking about going pro at table tennis after some of the games we played.

"It's difficult to learn from each other as neither of us disclose detailed information about our bikes and we're in different classes, but we can learn about training techniques.

"All racers want to be the best and Casey proved it in 2007. Maybe one day soon we will be in the same championship again."

While Camier hopes to beat his friend on the track in the future, his mind is firmly fixed on a second season in the WSB with Aprilia. The campaign begins at Australia's Phillip Island on February 27.

He said: "Every year is a big year, and I will continue to put maximum effort into every session and every race. After having a good rookie season, I would like to build on that and be a regular podium contender."



**BULLSEYE:** Ross Smith has been in-form

## Smith throws off 2009 humiliation to make his point

DARTS has a new star in Kent after Ross Smith burst to prominence at the BDO World Championship in front of the TV cameras this week.

The Chatham-born player, who went into the tournament as a rank outsider, stunned the Lakeside crowd by knocking out eighth seed Tony O'Shea 3-1 in the first round.

However, the 22-year-old proved his victory had been no fluke as he stormed to a 4-1 win over Dutchman Willy van der Wiel, seeded ninth, to set up a quarter-final clash with reigning champion Martin Adams.

Smith appeared at the 2009 tournament, but departed without winning a set and he said the galling experience two years ago had stood him in good stead this time around.

"Being up there the first time, I didn't do too well and I was a bit embarrassed," he said.

"My preparations were a lot better this year; I've been having early nights and practicing a lot more. I've been listening to a lot of the top players and taking advice from them."

Smith's quarter-final against 'Wolfie' Adams was played after KoS went to press, although the Medway youngster said the moment he knocked out crowd favourite O'Shea would always remain with him.

"It was a shock because he's one of the best players in the world," Smith said.

"I knew I'd have to dig in deep and Tony didn't play his best darts, but I just stuck in there and took advantage of the situation."

"The crowd really helped me against Willy van der Wiel, they've given me great support. Being on the Lakeside stage means everything to me, it's the biggest tournament of the year and to be part of that is obviously fantastic."

To keep up-to-date with Smith's progress in the tournament, visit [www.kentsport.co.uk](http://www.kentsport.co.uk).

# Seamer Saker goes on trial as Kent look for bowling options

KENT are set to hand a pre-season trial to fast bowler Neil Saker as they look to bulk up their attack for the 2011 season.

The 6ft 4ins seamer played 18 first-class games with Surrey between 2003 and 2008 before being released, and will be given a chance to impress as Kent step up their preparations for the season opener at Essex on April 8.

The 26-year-old is one of a number of cricketers that have found themselves surplus to requirements by counties that are struggling financially and therefore turning to cheaper, home-grown talent.

Several experienced batsmen have contacted Kent this winter asking for an opportunity to get back into the first-class game, with some even offering to play for free while proving themselves, in order to earn a deal.

While it's a tempting offer for county coaches attempting to juggle a shoestring playing budget, Kent's head coach, Paul Farbrace, has warned that while it will create good competition for places in county cricket, it mustn't prevent the natural path for young players.

## Interested

"We've had three or four players come to us that have been released asking for an opportunity and a couple that have said they will play for zip; they don't want any money they just want to show they are good enough to play first-class cricket," he said.

"I think some have come to us because they have seen we have a small staff and are probably backing themselves to come and play for nothing and get games and earn contracts on the back of that."

"Of course, you are interested in them because there could be some good players, but what you have got to weigh up is them coming to you – does that block some of

By **GLENN PEARSON**

your young players? Where some counties might say it would be good to have a couple of those as stopgaps, we look at it and see the likes of Daniel Bell-Drummond, Chris Piesley and James Goodman who we signed onto our staff; they need opportunity.

"If we were to clog our team up with batters from other counties that might deny them an opportunity.

"If a bowler became available then it's a different matter because every county is looking for bowlers, but there won't be too many on the market, but there will be batters."

Saker, who also played for the Unicorns team, is one bowler with first-class experience and as Kent did with Ashley Shaw last summer – recruited at pre-season training – it's an opportunity too good to pass up for cash-strapped clubs.

"There are one or two bowlers about and we've got one coming in who is looking for a route back into county cricket and he would be good for us because it will be another bowler with first-class experience at pre-season," Farbrace said of Saker.

"If he does well during the pre-season programme then we may look at him differently, you can't make any promises because finances are tight."

"He is someone who had an injury, but has come back and worked extremely hard this winter; is fit and strong and all the indications are that he is bowling well."

"If it goes well then who knows what may happen and if it doesn't then we haven't lost anything."



**HITMAN:** Neil Saker is hoping to impress



**EXCLUSIVE**

**Read Lydia Greenway's exclusive blog on our website as England look to follow the men's example and retain the Ashes Down Under**

The Kent and England left-handed batsman was part of the women's side that won the Ashes last year and hopes to leave Australia next month with the little urn in tow. Follow Lydia's and England's progress at [www.kentsport.co.uk](http://www.kentsport.co.uk) as the Farnborough-born batsman blogs on life on tour Down Under



# King conscious return to fitness won't be ruled by his heart

**COMEBACK:**  
Gills defender  
Simon King  
has been out  
since 2009  
Picture: ADY KERRY

PATIENCE is the biggest virtue for Simon King as the Gillingham defender battles to keep his enthusiasm under control in the final stages of his recovery from long-term injury.

A serious ankle problem has kept the 27-year-old on the sidelines since July, 2009, but after several lengthy setbacks a first-team return is tantalisingly close.

King has been named as a substitute several times in the last few weeks and is set for another run-out in the reserves against Crawley Town on Tuesday.

The nature of his injury means he will never be able to cope with the same workload as he had before.

## Professional

Training has been a case of trial and error over the last few weeks and the centre-back admitted the biggest problem was knowing when to stop.

"I have to test it out each day, but it's so far so good and I'm pretty much training every day," he said.

"I have to be a bit careful and slow myself down, I can be so eager to progress and do extra training, but I can't keep doing that.

"Sometimes it feels good and you want to carry on, but you shouldn't do that. You have to be professional about it and realise I'm not able to train every day.

By **DAVID PRITCHARD**

"The biggest thing is not to get frustrated with myself, I'm not suddenly going to be the same player I was and it's going to take time."

The comeback briefly hit a snag this week during a training game specially arranged to give the squad's recovering players valuable fitness. King rolled his fragile ankle and had to stop, missing training the following day to recover.

It was likely to keep him out of the squad for Saturday's first-team trip to Stockport County, but such minor setbacks are commonplace in players returning from long-term injuries.

Despite the problem it could not dim the defender's optimism: "I'm just enjoying my football again. It's been a frustrating time for me over the last 18 months, but I've kept positive and there's a light at the end of the tunnel now.

"I'm just trying to put it behind me. I've finally got through it and I've just got to keep doing the right things and hopefully get a few more years out of me."



**REALISTIC:**  
Gills boss Andy  
Hessenthaler

## Hess is thankful of Gills patience during poor run

THE INCREASING speed with which clubs run out of patience with managers has left Gills boss Andy Hessenthaler thankful he survived a poor run of results earlier this season.

The New Year has brought a flurry of sackings throughout the top four divisions, with Charlton manager Phil Parkinson one of three to receive his P45 on Tuesday.

Former Gills boss Mark Stimson was shown the door by Barnet last weekend after just seven months in charge, while midweek results in the Premier League have left Roy Hodgson, Avram Grant and Gerard Houllier on the at-risk list.

Hessenthaler came under severe pressure earlier in the season when his Gillingham side sunk to the brink of the League Two relegation zone and were dumped out of the FA Cup by non-league Dover Athletic.

Club chairman Paul Scally chose to stick by his manager and the situation has since improved thanks to a run of five successive victories. Hessenthaler is grateful the patience has paid off and believes the situation is worse now than during his previous stint at Priestfield, which ended in 2004.

"For me it's a collective business, but I think all managers, me included, go into the job knowing it's a results business," he said.

"Five or six weeks ago we weren't achieving what we should have been and if that had continued then maybe I would have been out a job. That's the harsh reality and we know that.

"I've never known anything like it. Maybe there's so much at stake now, everyone wants success immediately. I think the chairmen and directors that give managers a bit more time is where you end up being more successful.

"Sir Alex Ferguson could have easily lost his job when he first went to Man United, but they knew what he could do and look at him, he's the best manager in the world as far as I'm concerned."

## Fleet chairman prepared to contemplate promotion

EBBSFLEET United chairman Phil Sonsara believes the club would now cope back in Conference Premier having regained a solid financial footing.

Earlier in the season, Sonsara had questioned the benefits of an instant return to non-league's top division, with off-field uncertainty undermining the bright start made by Liam Daish's team.

However, the prize money won during a high-profile FA Cup run has helped provide a platform for the Fleet to challenge for promotion this season and survive at the next level up.

"We're in a situation where we've got a bit of stability and we want to give it a shot," Sonsara said.

"If we end up second and win the play-offs, fine, but it would be nicer to send out a message by winning the division.

"I didn't think the club was ready for promotion straight back to Conference Premier, but the way the team's performed and the

way we're managing the business, I'm quite comfortable we'd rise to the challenge.

"The finances have stabilised, we don't have a problem paying the bills and I think we can really target a mid-table position in Conference Premier if we can get the breaks and get promoted."

Victory at Droylsden in the FA Trophy next weekend would further swell the Stonebridge Road coffers at a time when Daish is desperate to add to his threadbare squad.

The Fleet boss is still hoping to secure at least three of his players on contracts until the end of the season, with additional funds available for him to draft in several new faces for the Conference South run-in.

Sonsara said: "With the money we're talking about, there's definitely the potential [for new signings].

"The lads who are going onto contracts are getting a relatively small rise so we should have the funds for one, two or even three new players."



**CASH:** Liam Daish

## Bromley suffering duel hit of burglars and big freeze

TIMES are tough at Hayes Lane as Bromley look to bounce back from a serious burglary and a barren run that saw them go more than seven weeks without a home game.

While the Lillywhites are still looking good for promotion from Conference South on the field, owner Jerry Dolke is struggling to cover the weekly playing budget and fears some players may slip away.

Dolke personally funded repairs when burglars damaged several parts of the ground last month, meaning the Bromley players went unpaid over the Christmas period.

In an open letter to the club's supporters, he said: "We have a great group of lads at the club, but at this time of year I cannot honestly ask them to stay with us without being paid when they could be earning money elsewhere.

"We just need enough [cash] to see us through without losing the great squad that we have worked so hard to assemble. Were we to be able to raise more money than is needed in the near future, we would be able to strengthen our bid to finish in the top-five, but that is not the immediate priority."

Following their 2-2 draw with Woking on



**OFF:** Bromley (white) lost the Boxing Day derby game with Dover due to the weather. November 9, Bromley went 51 days without playing a home game as the freezing weather left the club with almost no income throughout December.

The loss of the Boxing Day derby against Dover Athletic particularly hurt the Lillywhites, who will surely see a reduced gate when the Whites make the midweek trip on February 1.



# Kent facing an overseas dilemma as they miss out on Parnell signature

KENT look to have missed out on signing Wayne Parnell as their overseas player.

The South African looks set to sign to play for another county in the next few weeks, which will come as a blow to Kent who were hopeful of being able to sign the left-arm seamer for a short period this summer.

The 21-year-old was keen on a return to St Lawrence after a successful period during the 2009 season, in which he helped the club to Twenty20 finals day, and Kent indicated he was one of their main targets for the coming campaign.

## EXCLUSIVE

By **GLENN PEARSON**

That was also dependent on the county being able to find room in their budget for an overseas player, and was likely to only be for the duration of the Friends Provident t20.

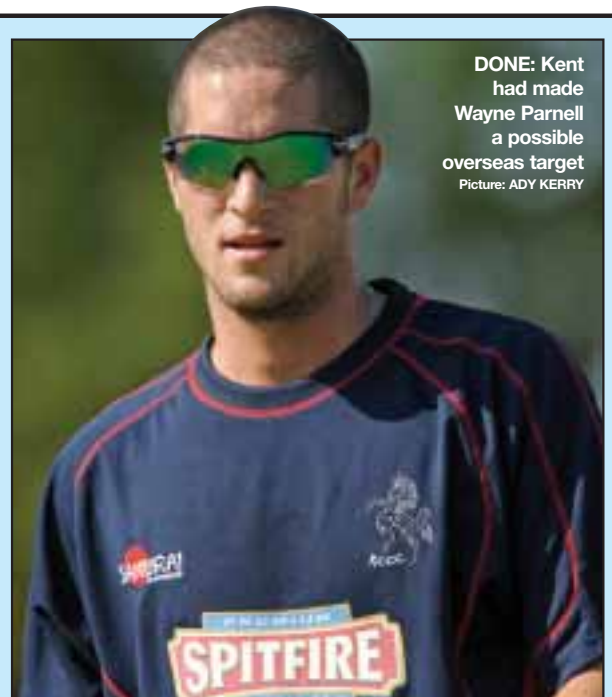
However, it now looks as though the club will be beaten to his signature for the coming summer and Kent will now have to explore other avenues, although the county may not even have the finances to

fund an overseas player at all.

While missing out on Parnell will be met with disappointment, the news will be tempered with the return to fitness of fast bowler Robbie Joseph.

The Antiguan-born quick could only make one County Championship appearance last season as a result of the effects of surgery, but the 28-year-old's shoulder has reacted well to going under the knife for a second time and he is jetting off to Australia next month to get some overs under his belt before the start of the summer.

• See inside today's paper for more Kent cricket news.



DONE: Kent had made Wayne Parnell a possible overseas target  
Picture: ADY KERRY



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# PLAYERS FACE LIFE BAN FOR WEB THREATS

## Kent Youth League and County FA bosses vow to come down hard on the Facebook thugs

By **DAVID PRITCHARD**

TEENAGE Sunday league football players face being banned for life after posting threatening messages to opponents on Facebook.

The Kent Youth League (KYL), which has 155 teams from across the county, from under-13s up to under-18s, is now investigating two of its clubs after a parent of one of the victims brought the problem to its attention.

A number of youngsters have been using the social networking site to leave intimidating comments on the pages of players ahead of their Sunday fixtures.

Colin Boswell, chief executive at the KYL, has seen some of the material and was disgusted with the content.

He said: "We take matters like this very seriously and I think this sort of thing needs to be nipped in the bud quite quickly."

"Some of it was quite vile. You just wonder what it has to do with kicking a ball around on a Sunday morning."

The KYL's child welfare officer was



attempting to contact the two clubs for an explanation as this newspaper went to press.

It is expected the case will be referred to the Kent County Football Association which has the power to charge the individuals or clubs involved.

Rule eight of the association's handbook is unambiguous about such issues, with members held responsible for content on internet sites.

It goes on to say: "The council of the association shall be empowered to expel any member or individual acting in a manner on the website which is deemed to be insulting, derogatory or not conforming with the best interests of the game."

If the charges are upheld at a hearing, the KCFA has a wide spectrum of punishments at its disposal, ranging from formal warnings about future conduct right up to life bans.

Keith Masters, chief executive at the KCFA, who had not seen the comments, said:

"I want to see it and assess it but if we can substantiate it we will have to do something about it so the word gets around."

"The punishment should fit the crime, but should also deter others from following suit. We will have to look at it and I would imagine some charges will be issued."

All KYL clubs have been reminded of the KCFA's internet policy this week with a statement on the league's website, which read: "Friendly banter between mates is fine. Threats of violence, foul language, etc, is not. You have been warned so will all clubs please ensure their players behave in a sensible manner on this network or face the consequences."

Worryingly it is not the first time the association has been forced to act over messages left on Facebook.

An earlier case, involving less malicious material, saw several people charged, while the KYL has also dealt with a separate issue internally.

If charges are brought in this case, those involved will have 14 days to respond and a hearing would then be held to determine the KCFA's action. Once started, the process is expected to take six weeks.